

Callaghan facing Commons storm over Leyland today

Agency Commons debate will press Mr Callaghan the deepening internal s threatening British ire. In a report to the surprise Board the

company emphasized its grave cash flow difficulties because of strike-disrupted production and said corrective action was needed. The total of workers laid off by the strikes rose to 28,000 and might reach 40,000 by the weekend.

Years of 40,000 lay-offs

end, who yes- own strong British Leyland demands from the Commons se precise deraing internal finan- is threatening survival. emergency MPs will want to of last week's a British Leyland a National Enter- is now clear the hasted its grave difficulties because production and that corrective

to instigate a peace formula which, they hope, might lead to a meeting with their rebel tool- room members within the next two weeks. Despite the com- pany's crisis, senior union officials would consider a meeting by next Tuesday at the earliest as a triumph of organization.

Representatives of the 11 district committees involved in the Leyland issue will receive letters today from Mr John Boyd, the union's general secretary, asking them to select tool- room and other skilled workers who would be willing to meet the executive.

ael Grylls, chairman conservative industry wrote to the Prime yesterday asking for a report to the board de available to MPs. ought information on a loan Leyland has n under the agreement ust when the Commons d the lending a total to the company.

Mr Hugh Scanlon, the union's president, made clear that the decision did not countermand the earlier instruction to the Leyland strikers to return to work. Any discussion with the strikers must be arranged through recognized union channels.

Each board has separate obligations, one operating under specific statute and the other under the Companies Acts. National Enterprise Board and Industry Act funds are being supplied for specific investment projects and Leyland has to provide working capital from its own resources.

an being estioned er deaths John Charltes esfield man who arrived at ire police headquarters on ay was still being ayed yesterday evening tives from three police, who have been investiga- de deaths of Mr Ian Jobb, 21, a bank under manager Miss Susan Hockenbull, 19, his clerk, after a bank y at Prestbury, Cheshire. yday, police officers seen digging up the back- of a council house on Weston Estate, Maccles- young woman with a baby the house under police yesterday morning and were driven away in an urked car. A blue saloon as towed from outside the y by the police.

The union moves, seen as something of a breakthrough, were backed by Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Trans- port and General Workers' Union. He urged all Leyland union members to give fullest cooperation to achieve viability for the company.

Our Political Reporter writes: A severe attack on the Govern- ment's economic an industrial today by the Conservatives dur- ing the Leyland debate. It was not known last night whether Mr Varley will be in position to make a considered or holding statement.

Rees in 'delicate' talks police pay face of growing demands by officers for the right to strike es, the Home Secretary, held te" pay talks with the Police ion. He also met the Police which represents local authori- a federation will meet today to the pay offer made last Friday consider future action. Three lous-by police in Northumbria, orshire and Nottinghamshire, ven large majorities in favour ight to strike

The next phase of state aid to the company is due later this year but any threatened block- ade by either the Government Enterprise Board's loans and capital might pose difficulties for the Leyland directors. They are obliged under the articles of association to restrict their borrowings from external sources to a level not exceed- ing two and a half times its capital and reserves.

Ministers involved were in consultation last night and a meeting of the Cabinet's industrial committee today to approve a statement to the Commons is a possibility. Mrs Thatcher gave a broad outline of the Opposition's view when she questioned Mr Callaghan in the Commons yesterday. She asked whether British Leyland's difficulties did not demonstrate the weaknesses of his two main pillars of policy: the social contract and the industrial strategy.

n curbs lifted ns in Uganda were freed yes- from the restrictions imposed r movements last Friday. A they were ordered to attend sident Amin today was

The board is being driven by disappointing output figures and disruption of internal capital flow towards a situation where, perhaps, they may not be able to accept National Enterprise Board's loans and guarantees until the impact of production losses on its

Earlier the Prime Minister had stated that the funds made available to British Leyland would continue to be made available, but there must be a review of the situation before further funds are committed.

Tories divided over European elections

By Our Political Correspondent The Government's delay in producing a Bill or even a White Paper on direct elections to the European Parliament, due to be held in May-June, 1978, has presented the Conservative Party in the Commons with an embarrassing choice.

past-the-post elections, in consti- tuencies formed by grouping eight or ten Westminster electorates together.

But at a private meeting of the committee this week, held under the chairmanship of Mr John Davies, the shadow Foreign Secretary, it was clear that most Conservatives would prefer to press ahead with first-

Although it is a forlorn hope, the advocates of that system recognize that a Bill has to be produced within the next month if there is to be time for the boundary commissions to draw up the Euro-constituencies, allow for an abbreviated process of local appeals, and get the arrangements settled in time.

The liberalization of Damascus A change of style by the Syrian regime has transformed Damascus. The familiar police state atmosphere has given way to a city of tourist hotels where British and American magazines are on display at the news stands and Syrian newspapers actually criticize the Government

But the Conservatives have to be ready to react in case the Government proposes, in order to save time, that there shall be a simple method of proportional representation based on the party list system. That may well be the Government's recommended method in the White Paper that is expected within the next two weeks.

Mrs Gandhi booed Mrs Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, opening her election campaign in Delhi, drew boos and derisive laughter from the crowd when she admitted her Government had made mistakes

Labour MPs see some advantage

More foreign doctors Fewer British graduates are seeking a career in the hospital service and reliance is being placed increasingly on overseas doctors, according to new evidence put to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service by the British Hospital Doctors' Association

US plan for energy President Carter is to set up a new Department of Energy with a budget of \$10,000m a year and employing 20,000 people. This represents one of the largest American Government reorganizations for many years

Dr Owens debut Dr David Owens made his debut as Foreign Secretary in the House of Commons yesterday with a "tour d'horizon" in which he assessed Britain's role in the world

Contempt of Parliament: A newspaper allegation that 60 MPs were paid to lobby for bookmakers was serious contempt, the Committee of Privileges has stated

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Photographers barred from Carter-Bukovsky meeting

From Fred Emery

Washington, March 1 President Carter today talked at the White House with Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, the dissident activist recently exiled by the Soviet Union, but he refused to permit news photographers to record their meeting.

White House spokesmen, beset by sceptical reporters, denied that the President was trying to avoid excessive offence to the Soviet Government. They said he wanted the 10-minute meeting kept private, it sounded a lame explanation, especially as the contents of the meeting were instantly divulged verbatim by the official spokesmen.

were restrained from interview- ing him as he was whisked by car from the White House. This led to ironic dissidence on the White House lawn in an extraordinary shouting scuffle between a CBS camera crew and the police, which was filmed by all other photo- graphers present. It was hilarious but the impact of the occasion was, indisputably diluted, doubtless by direct Presidential order.

Vice-President Mondale had originally invited Mr Bukovsky to call so it was his spokesman, Mr A. Eisele, who gave the official account. Mr Carter, it was said, "dropped in" for the final 10 minutes of the half hour Mr Bukovsky was at the White House.

Mr Bukovsky, through an interpreter, expressed his gratitude: "I understand the highest honour being shown me by my being received in the White House and I understand that in doing so your Administration shows its respect for the movement which I respect."

Mr Bukovsky told Mr Mondale, during their separate meeting, that the American govern- ment should always keep in mind the psychology of the Soviet peoples in assessing their leaders and, above all, be "persistent in human rights advocacy."

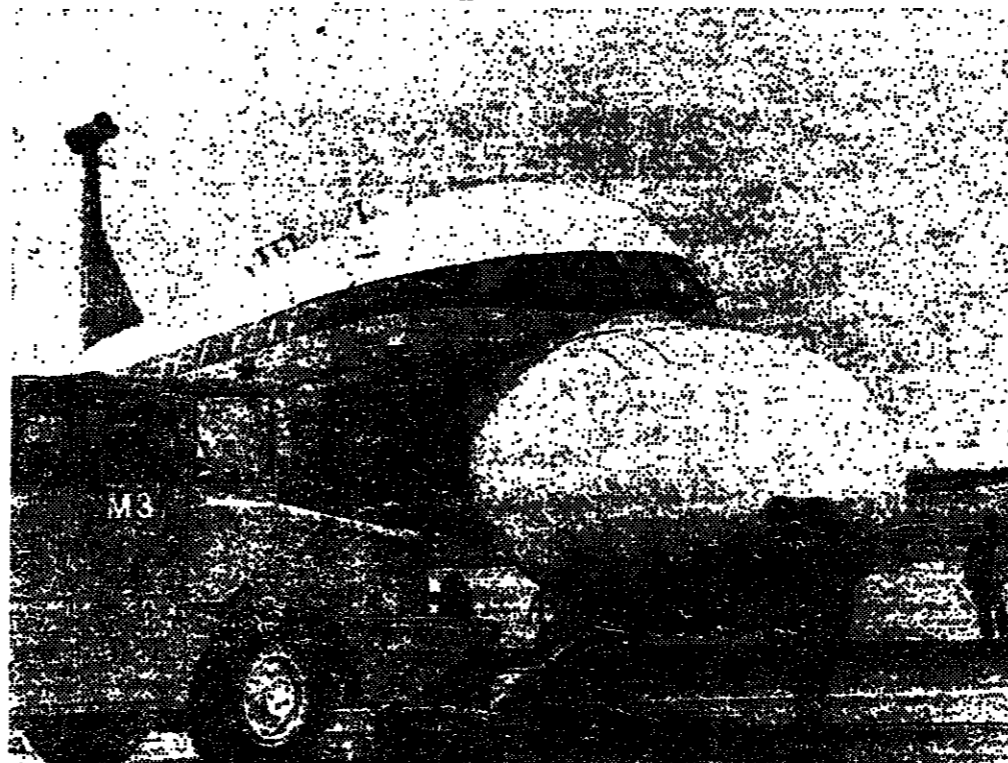
Mr Carter, by this account, wanted his commitment to pro- test over human rights abuses well understood as not being simply anti-Soviet. "Our com- mitment to the concept of human rights is permanent and I don't intend to be timid in my public statements and positions. I want them to be productive and not counterproductive, and also to ensure that our own nation and countries other than the Soviet Union are constantly aware that we want to pursue the freedom of individuals and their right to express them- selves."

Asked by Mr Mondale what kept up his hopes during his years of incarceration before being exchanged in December for Señor Corvalan, the

Chilean Communist leader, Mr Bukovsky replied: "First and foremost, trust, trust in people, faith in the future, and faith in the human values for which we stand."

According to Mr Eisele, Mr Bukovsky said he did not wish to meet reporters. The insistence on no photo- graphs is hard to explain. The Soviet Government will in any case be infuriated by Mr Bukovsky's reception at the White House, and will hardly be mollified by the absence of press photographs.

Some journalists, angry with Mr Carter today, may remember that President Ford was too timid even to receive Mr Solzhenitsyn at the White House, a timidity he now regrets.



A nose cone, containing radar equipment that will be used in the Nimrod early-warning aircraft, fitted to a Comet for trials. It was on show at Hawker Siddeley, Manchester, yesterday. Report, page 2.

Tycoon threatens to lead air attack on seized tanker

By Peter Hill Industrial Correspondent

Mr Ravi Tikoo, the million- aire shipowner, claimed last night that he was a victim of a communist vendetta which has led to one of his ships being held by 38 Filipino crewmen in the French port of Le Havre. The Kashmir-born head of the British-based Citibank Tankers group issued an ultimatum saying he would lead an airborne storming party on to the tanker if his ship is not freed.

until the shipping chief now refuses to negotiate under duress.

Mr Tikoo said he had given the crew two days to get off the tanker. "If the mutineers have not withdrawn and, provided we have the necessary approval of the French and British Govern- ments, I will take five men, including my personal body- guard, by helicopter and land on the ship," he said. "I am a trained naval officer and I can take care of the situation—I am still physically fit."

He explained that the com- pany had received a "ransom demand" from a French com- munist-dominated seamen's union. They wanted a payment of £150,000 for the release of the ship, although later the company had received notification that the French union might be prepared to negotiate for about half that amount.

likely to be "lynched".

"The communists are behind this whole affair and this is a communist vendetta against me and this company," he said. "They never like to see free enterprise succeed and I am now so fed up with the situation here that I have decided today to pack my bags and leave Britain."

The dispute is costing Globit an estimated £5,500 a day in lost earnings, totalling £91,000 so far. The £6m (£3.5m) cargo of oil carried by the vessel from Teesside to the French port is still on board and Mr Tikoo fears for the continued safety of the ship and the dangers of an explosion.

He explained that the com- pany's agents had recruited "mercenaries" purely as a security force (each man is being paid £20 a day) and the men—mainly trawlermen from Grimsby—had been sent solely to undertake the discharge of the ship's cargo. A fully qual- ified British crew was on stand- by to fly to the ship once the dispute was resolved and call the ship out of Le Havre.

Two Fleet St print unions reject technology deal

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor

Craft printing union members have rejected the joint Pro- gramme for Action agreed between union leaders and news- printers last night in Fleet Street and Manchester. The programme was held out as the key to Fleet Street's survival.

National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel has also gone against acceptance of the agreement, though by a considerably smaller margin. The outcome of similar ballots of journalists, electri- cians, engineering and distribution workers will not be known for some time.

Members of the National Graphical Association are understood to have voted more than three to one in London against it, and by a rather smaller majority in Manchester. The ballot of members of the

Ulster drive to protect businessmen

The Royal Ulster Constabulary has launched a security operation throughout the province aimed at protecting lead- ing businessmen and other prominent citizens from attack by the Provisional IRA.

Details of the new drive were released last night after a meet- ing between Mr Kenneth New- man, the chief constable, and Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Their emergency consultations at Stormont came after the attempted murder of another Protestant businessman yester- day morning.

The latest victim, Mr Walker Whitten, an accountant, aged 72, was in a critical condition when he was shot while walk- ing to work near his home in Portadown. He was the brother of a former Unionist member of the Ulster Convention.

The measures to be taken by the police include the sending of under-cover patrols into middle-class areas most suscep- tible to attack.

Other Irish news, page 4

'The Times'

In the past week *The Times* has lost 333,000 copies because of two unofficial disputes in- volving members of the machine assistants' chapel of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel and the publishing chapel of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades. Efforts to reach a truce through the normal union pro- cedures have so far failed, even though both disputes are being dealt with by the agreed machinery for the industry. Both claims involve demands for extra payments that, in the view of the company, are unjustified and in any case would be outside the pay policy. *The Times* apologizes to its readers, advertisers and distributors, particularly in Scotland, Ireland, the North of England and overseas.

Inter-party devolution talks' outlook 'poor'

By David Leigh Political Staff

Invitations from the Prime Minister and Mr Foot, Leader of the House, for the other parties to join in exploratory talks about the beleaguered devolution Bill were being taken up yesterday.

Most MPs, however, expect the series of meetings over the next few days to demonstrate the unbridgeable gulf between the parties.

Invitations have gone to the Conservatives, Liberals and all minor parties.

Mr Cledwyn Hughes, chair- man of the Parliamentary Labour Party, has also been asked to consider soundings in the PLP. The dilemma will be discussed at the backbench liaison committee today. One possibility is a debate on devolution at a party meeting; another is that backbench rebels, who effectively lost the Government its guillotine will be consulted individually.

Various ideas are being canvassed at Westminster on how to make progress with the talks, but any generally useful agree- ment is remote.

A referendum on separation might appease rebel MPs who fear the beginning of the end for the United Kingdom. But it would not appease those who think the whole structure of the present Bill is unsound.

It might prove possible to re- assure some North of England MPs who fear Scotland and Wales will get too much out of having assemblies. Some would like regional planning councils in the North to give a political

counterbalance to claims from Edinburgh and Cardiff.

The Conservatives are ap- proaching the talks gingerly: they will take place between the Prime Minister and Mr Foot on one hand, and Mrs Thatcher and Mr Francis Pym on the other.

Mr Callaghan could un- doubtedly win over some individual Tories by offering concessions that have been re- jected, such as proportional representation or cuts in the numbers and rights of Scots and Welsh MPs at Westminster. Some Tory frontbenchers are also interested in developing the idea of some weak body, for Scotland at least, that could have the title of assembly.

It seems a forlorn hope that Labour can offer anything to the Ulster Unionists. Mr James Molyneux, their leader, and Mr Enoch Powell will meet Mr Foot and his deputy, Mr Smith, tomorrow night, but they want more Ulster MPs at Westmin- ster and devolution of their

The Liberals have already laid their cards on the table, in successive demands for propo- rtiional representation, federal- type tax powers for assemblies, and cuts in the number of Scots and Welsh MPs.

The Scottish nationalists are not sanguine. They can press for a mandatory referendum on devolution, but that is not a course Tories are likely to support, let alone the Government. Although the Government says it is not going to recast its legislative programme until the fate of the Bill becomes clear, it is almost universally accepted at Westminster that the Bill is dead.

Scots nationalists to move their own devolution Bill

From Ronald Fair Edinburgh

A Bill to set up a Scottish assembly is to be introduced in Parliament by the Scottish National Party. That was de- cided in Edinburgh yesterday at a meeting of the party's national executive and 11 MPs. The party aims at "telling the bluff" of MPs who claim to be for the principle of devolu- tion but against the Government's proposals. The Bill will be published within two weeks.

Mr William Wolfe, the party's chairman, said the measure would be designed to sanction the establishment of a Scottish assembly and vest in the people

of Scotland the power, through their elected representatives, to determine the responsibilities and detailed functions of the new body. It would be a radical new approach to the devolution debate.

Mr Donald Stewart, MP for the Western Isles and leader of the SNP parliamentary group, said the Bill would show where Scottish MPs really stood.

Mr Stewart said the Bill would be the SNP's contribu- tion to the all-party talks on devolution. If it was accepted there would be elections in Scot- land and the party that won control could put forward its own proposals for the power the assembly should hold.

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HOME NEWS

Mr Rees meets police on pay as call for right to strike grows

By Diana Geddes
Home Affairs Reporter

While calls by police officers for the right to strike were increasing yesterday, Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, held what were described as further "delicate discussions" with the Police Federation about pay. He also had talks with the Police Council, which represents the police "employers", the local authorities.

The Home Office would not disclose whether Mr Rees was able to make any new proposal beyond the compromise pay offer last Friday, which was said to have been within the pay code.

The joint central council of the Police Federation, which represents 120,000 officers in England and Wales, is due to meet today to discuss the latest offer and to consider what further action it should take to pursue its minimum demand for a rise of 5.6 a week in the light of increasing pressure on its members for the right to strike.

Three more police authorities

yesterday announced the results of ballots showing an overwhelming majority of officers wanting the right to strike, in Northumbria, South Yorkshire, and Nottinghamshire.

Not one of about a dozen of the 43 Police Federation branches have so far decided to hold ballots as voted against seeking the right to strike.

It is considered likely that the federation's annual meeting in Scarborough in May will vote in favour of resolutions calling for the right to strike and for affiliation to the TUC. At present police are prohibited by law from taking industrial action.

The police in Britain have been on strike only twice this century: in August, 1918, in London, for two days over pay and conditions of work; and the next year in London and the provinces over a clause in the Police Bill introduced after the first strike which prohibited membership of any trade union other than a police federation.

Leading article, page 17

Nuclear reprocessing plan goes to council

By Our Science Editor

The controversial plan to expand the British Nuclear Fuels factories at Windscale, Cumbria, in order to reprocess waste-enriched oxide nuclear fuels from Japan, Spain and other countries has been resubmitted to Cumbria County Council. The scheme is being sent for consideration by the County Council's Planning Committee, which is expected to meet on March 10.

Plans for the oxide reprocessing plant were among several applications made yesterday to the council's planning committee for extensions, which would cost a total of £500m. They were all included in a single application which Mr Shore rejected in December after a long and bitter dispute about long-term implications of plutonium storage and radioactive waste disposal, which led to intervention by Mr Shore. They are, however, crucial to the development and safety of existing nuclear energy generation in Britain. One asks for expansion of the plant for reprocessing the natural uranium Magnox fuel used in existing power stations.

The second covers the development of a demonstration process called Harvest, by which long-term radioactive wastes

now stored in liquid form in underground tanks, can be converted into glass ingots before they are stored in deep underground caverns.

The need for both projects has been recognized by the Government. British Nuclear Fuels has divided the contentious reprocessing proposals into two parts. One is for construction of special cooling ponds in which to store the fuel rods before reprocessing, and the second is for the reprocessing plant itself.

As a new application, the two developments will be sent formally to the Department of the Environment under the 21-day rule. If a decision is not taken within that time to "call in" an application for an inquiry planning permission will be granted automatically by the local authority planning committee.

In a statement yesterday British Nuclear Fuels said there was no obvious reason for submitting two plans. It emphasized that the provision of oxide fuel receipt and storage facilities (cooling ponds) would not prejudice any decision that might be taken on the construction of an oxide fuel reprocessing plant.

Permitted: Cumbria County Council's planning committee yesterday gave outline permission for development of the process for storing nuclear waste as glass in cooled storage ponds (our Kendal Correspondent writes). The committee also agreed to modernization of the Magnox plant.

Government has to decide on a voting system

continued from page 1

age in proportional representation at a time when the political tide is surging against them, and when there could be a strong swing away from the Government.

Some Conservatives also see an advantage for their own party in a PR system, and have less objection to the system for European elections, where no choice of Government is involved, than they would have for elections to Westminster.

But they have a strong objection to a national party list, opening up the way for intrigue and patronage at party headquarters.

They would prefer the country to be divided into 10 or 12 regions, each with a local list of candidates and each set of electors following the same pattern. Euro-PRs they are going to elect. In that way, it is argued, the power of the party hierarchies would be reduced, and people would have a direct relationship with their local MPs at Strassbourg.

Everything depends on the will of the Government to get on with the legislation. If it comes quickly, the Conservatives will stick by their demand for the usual kind of election; if delays are inevitable, they may accept some kind of regional list system. The Government is apparently still undecided.

Society may go to Bath

The Royal Photographic Society is considering moving from its premises in Mayfair, London, to Bath. It is holding discussions with Bath City Council and Bath University.

Two company directors entertained a jury council leader and an official on an excessive scale, a jury at Swansea Crown Court was told yesterday. "You may think it was a staggering scale," said Mr Aubrey Myerson, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Exhibition starts search for Byron's chair

An exhibition of papers belonging to George Gordon Byron, which were found in a trunk in a London bank vault last December, opened at the British Museum yesterday.

Mr Victor Lucas, an actor who is lecturing about Byron and his circle at the exhibition, said that the chair, which was found in a trunk in a London bank vault last December, opened at the British Museum yesterday.

Mr Lucas recalled that Davies was forced to flee from creditors in 1820 and lived for a time in a hay loft in Ostend before moving to Paris, where he died in 1822. Friends sent him the chair which had belonged to Byron.

The chair was later sent back to Britain, where it was owned by George Godwin, editor of *The Builder*, who collected chairs of famous people, including those of Dickens and Thackeray. Scrope's chair was sold when the collection was disposed of at Oxford between 1891 and 1893.

Mr Lucas said: "Since then it has, to all intents and purposes, disappeared. I have contacted Sotheby's and Christie's but they cannot help me. It would be interesting to find the chair now that interest in this man has been reawakened by the discovery of this trunk."

The exhibition, organized by the British Library, shows a selection of papers found in Barclays Bank at Pall Mall and explains the background of Davies and his group. Bills, betting slips and letters from his mistress, Lady Frances Webster, give a picture of life in the London of the time.

Directors entertained council leader, QC says

Two company directors entertained a jury council leader and an official on an excessive scale, a jury at Swansea Crown Court was told yesterday. "You may think it was a staggering scale," said Mr Aubrey Myerson, QC, for the prosecution, said.

In the dock were Gerald Augustine Murphy, aged 47, the former leader of Swansea City Council; William Emrys Harris, aged 54, the council's suspended director of housing; and Douglas John Barber and Raymond John Bryant, both company directors.

Government dilemma on housing policy

By Our Planning Reporter

Two things have forced the issue of housing policy once more into the political limelight. One is the refusal of some members of the Building Economic Development Committee to endorse a report of a contentious report; the other is the unexplained failure of the Department of the Environment to disclose the findings of its own housing review.

Mr Hugh Rossi, opposition spokesman on housing and land, has accused the Government of deliberate suppression. Others, without plan so far, say the Labour Party as a whole appears unwilling to face some uncomfortable facts. The economic development report concludes that public expenditure on housing, particularly on subsidies, is becoming an increasingly intolerable burden. It argues that subsidies to council tenants cost three times as much as tax relief to owner-occupiers, and that rents must be drastically increased.

Mr John Cuckney, chairman of the Building Economic Development Committee, said yesterday that the subcommittee appointed to consider long-term measures for improving housing met eight times last year but had been unable to make an agreed recommendation on the draft report. Anything published in the council's name must have the backing of management, unions and government. This is a position which the subcommittee has been unable to reach.

The Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT) has already denied suggestions that the report was suppressed because of union opposition. Mr George Smith, the union's secretary, pointed out last week that even a compromise suggestion that it be published as a discussion document was opposed by seven of the committee's 22 members, only two of whom were trade unionists.

The whole question of the relative costs of council housing and owner-occupancy has been repeatedly debated and widely conflicting sets of figures have been produced. Defenders of public sector housing argue that present owner occupiers are cushioned by tax relief at the expense of council tenants. The main reason for the high cost of new council dwellings is the rates at which local authorities are forced to borrow money.

Almost all objective experts agree that subsidies of every kind are consuming resources urgently needed for new investment. But the Government is clearly unwilling to grasp the nettle and infuriate both its own left wing and home-owners simultaneously, and the conservatives must know that, once in power, they would face a similar dilemma.

£250m contest for radar system

By Arthur Reed

The British entry in a competition for a system to warn of an air attack by the Soviet Union, which is first to appear at the Soviet works of Hawker Siddeley, near Manchester, yesterday. Success might be worth at least £250m to this country.

It is a bulging nose added to a slender neck, which could be an advanced radar developed by Marconi-Elliott. It can identify Soviet bombers at a range of at least 200 miles. Other Nato aircraft, ships at sea, and Nato headquarters would be alerted to the threat.

If agreed by the Ministry of

The education debate 3: Teachers split over relevance of parents' views Primary schools defend modern methods

From Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Parents and employers who talk of a return to old-fashioned teaching methods are looking back to their school days through rose-tinted spectacles. They remember only the days when they got 10 out of 10 on the blackboard.

So says Mr Leonard Chew, headmaster of Oswestry Methodist Primary School, Lancashire. He adds: "Standards of education have not fallen. These parents do not realise that the problem of the innumerate and illiterate child has always been with us."

For Mr Chew and his colleagues the world of the small, modern, almost open-plan school he works in and the world of the great debate in Victorian Gothic buildings around the country are still miles apart. Yet as the third regional conference takes place today in Preston, most teachers believe that it might do some good if it persuades parents

and employers to look at what is happening in schools instead of relying on press reports and hazy memories of their own schooldays.

Mr Chew's teaching career started 40 years ago, he says, primary schools were content to teach arithmetic, English, history, geography, nature studies, scripture and singing.

"Now look at what we are teaching. Arithmetic has become geometry and algebra as well. English includes grammar and composition. Nature studies have become the sciences. Singing includes dancing, music, and recorder playing. And to this, we are teaching health, education, dental hygiene, road safety and use of libraries and we are taking children out of school on trips."

"Children are working on a timetable carefully structured to allow them to reach their own potential. If the great debate alters this it will do a great disservice."

The views of Mrs Judith Beardwood, a young primary teacher in charge of developing audio-visual aids in Burnley, are almost identical.

"I do not know any primary school in the country that is not teaching basic numeracy and literacy," she says. "It is just that we are doing much more than this. We are expected to widen children's knowledge into so many other areas. Children today are given more opportunity to talk. They are better at self-expression, creative ability and other skills which cannot be measured."

"We are trying to develop children's concept of numeracy and their understanding of multiplication tables. They are not learning them by rote any more and chanting them out in class."

Mr Keith Walmesley, Principal of Pleckgate High School and Community Centre in Blackburn, says: "The world is changing rapidly. We are under pressure from employers to teach today's skills but tomorrow these skills may be

redundant. We have to teach children the concept behind the skills so that they can adapt them."

But Mr Peter Windle head of modern languages at St Theodore's School, Burnley is less satisfied. "Some parents are getting a raw deal from the education system," he says. "My three-year-old daughter will get a decent education because she will go to a rural school, but I would not fancy her chances in an inner-city school."

"I do not think the great debate will do any harm. If the people whose children we are educating have no right to state their opinion we might as well be turning out lamp posts. We can see the folly of some of the suggestions coming out of the debate, but some of the points parents are making are valid. At least the so-called educational experts who lead lives away from the classroom are being exposed in public as the fools they so often are."

TUC team urged to attack public school 'privilege'

By Our Labour Editor

TUC leaders next week will discuss a plan to open top positions in British society to wider competition by curbing advantages enjoyed by public schools.

The TUC education committee is likely on Tuesday to approve a paper attacking the public schools as a means by which privilege is passed on from one generation to another.

The document urges the committee to ask the Chancellor and Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science to withdraw from private schools the charity

status that affords them tax exemption and a 50 per cent rate rebate.

Citing pre-war and up-to-date statistics of the social backgrounds of judges, bank directors, senior army officers and civil servants and ambassadors, the TUC paper argues that private education directly conflicts with the egalitarian principles of the labour movement. It adds that the tradition of giving top jobs to ex-public schoolboys could be a significant factor behind the failure of British institutions to adapt to technological social and economic change.

Direct billing for water may cost ratepayers £1.5m

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Direct billing of water charges by the Thames Water Authority from April, 1978, may cost ratepayers £1.5m a year, Wycombe District Council, Buckinghamshire, said yesterday.

The council has protested to Mr Shorrock, Secretary of State for the Environment, and is asking him not to introduce the system, under which regional water authorities will collect their water and miscellaneous service charges direct.

The Thames Water Authority last night disputed the figures and said there would be a saving for consumers. It said 85 per cent of water charges were already collected by direct billing.

Mr K. E. Morgan, chairman of Wycombe's policy and

resources committee, told the council that it would cost the Water authority £1,515,000 a year to take over the collection from local authorities, including £500,000 for extra staff and £500,000 for payment of commission to water companies to collect the miscellaneous service charge.

Wycombe council would not be able to make any saving as a result of not collecting extra staff charges because staff were already employed fully in collecting rates. It was unlikely that any other district council would be able to make savings.

The Thames Water Authority said that the cost of collecting the charges through local authorities was £1.75m. That and about £130,000 a year in interest charges would be saved. "We are firmly convinced there will be a substantial saving for our customers."

Pupils say teachers' union is trying to stifle them

The National Union of School Students

lunched a week of action by accusing the National Union of Teachers of trying to stifle it. The teachers' union had complained to the Secretary of State for Education that NUSS representatives had been invited to take part in the great education debate.

Mr Donald Hopewell, president of the NUSS, said yesterday: "We should like to run schools jointly between parents and teachers and pupils. But we do not feel we can do that if they are going to take such a hostile attitude."

The pupils' union, which was founded more than four years ago, has 15,000 members in more than 350 branches. During this action week they will be asking teachers and parents to sign a petition for a "school students should have a greater say in their education."

An official of the NUT said it thought that NUSS was politically motivated and unrepresentative. He said Mrs Williams's reply indicated that invitations to the NUSS for future conferences of that kind were by no means guaranteed.

Walker praise for Shadow Cabinet's housing move

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Peter Walker, Conservative MP for Worcester who was a prominent member of Mr Heath's Administration and a strong supporter of Mr Heath in the leadership election, last night welcomed the Shadow Cabinet's conversion to his views about council housing.

He said a recent statement by Michael Heseltine, the Conservative spokesman on the environment was the first admission by any member of Mrs Thatcher's Shadow Cabinet that it was the council tenant who had had a bad deal since the war.

Speaking at Dagenham, Mr Walker said: "When two years ago I started my campaign to transfer the ownership of council houses to the existing

tenants there were many voices in the Conservative Party and elsewhere who argued that such a scheme would be unfair to owner-occupiers."

Mr Heseltine had said: "The council tenant has been conned. We want to put that right."

Mr Walker said last night: "The recognition by Mr Heseltine of this dramatic difference does mean that the Tory Party will have to bring a new approach to its attitude to council house tenants. It would be wrong to try to reduce housing subsidies."

He concluded that the only kind of scheme that would help the third of the population who lived in council houses was one in which houses would be given without further payments to tenants who had paid rent for 30 years or more, about 8 per cent of the total.

Planning board's stand on quarrying attacked

From Our Correspondent
Matlock

The Peak Park Planning Board was attacked yesterday by representatives of industry and Derbyshire County Council for its allegedly restrictive attitude to quarrying in the park area of Derbyshire. The criticism came during a public hearing at Buxton to examine the Peak park structure plan for the next 20 years.

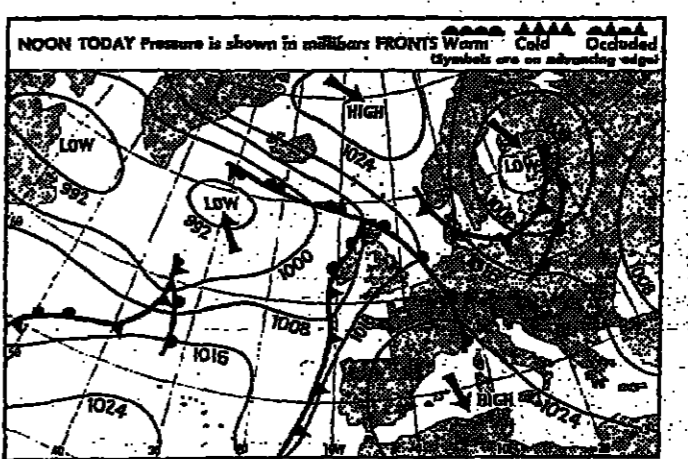
Mr Kenneth Parker, the park planning officer, said the board would in future want to apply

four main criteria to mineral planning applications. They would include consideration of whether the proposal was vital to the public interest and whether it was clear beyond all doubt that there was no practicable alternative source of supply.

For Derbyshire County Council, Mr Barry Crisp said it was unreasonable to say that in a park area of 500 sq miles there were no places where future mineral working was acceptable.

The hearing was adjourned.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 6.44 am. Sun sets: 5.43 pm.
Moon rises: 4.36 am. Moon sets: 2.19 pm.
Full moon: March 5.
Lighting up: 6.13 pm to 6.12 am.
High water: London Bridge, 11.26 am (18.6 ft), 11.50 pm (5.8 m).
Low water: London Bridge, 4.14 am (13.4 ft), 4.55 pm (11.1 m).
36.3 ft (11.0 m). Dover, 4.49 am (5.5 m), 4.57 pm (11.7 m).
Hull, 3.41 am (5.5 m), 5.50 pm (12.2 ft).
6.1 m (20.1 ft). Liverpool, 3.23 am (7.7 m), 5.23 pm (3.0 m) (26.1 ft).

Pressure will be low to the NW of the British Isles, with a mild SW airstream over most parts.
Forecasts from 6 am to midnight:
London, East Angles, Midlands, North Wales, SE England, SW coast, Bristol, Hull at first, drizzle and fog, becoming brighter; wind SW.
NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, Cloudy, rain; wind SE, moderate, becoming SW; max temp 7°C (45°F).
N Ireland: Cloudy, rain at times; high fog; wind SW, moderate on fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).
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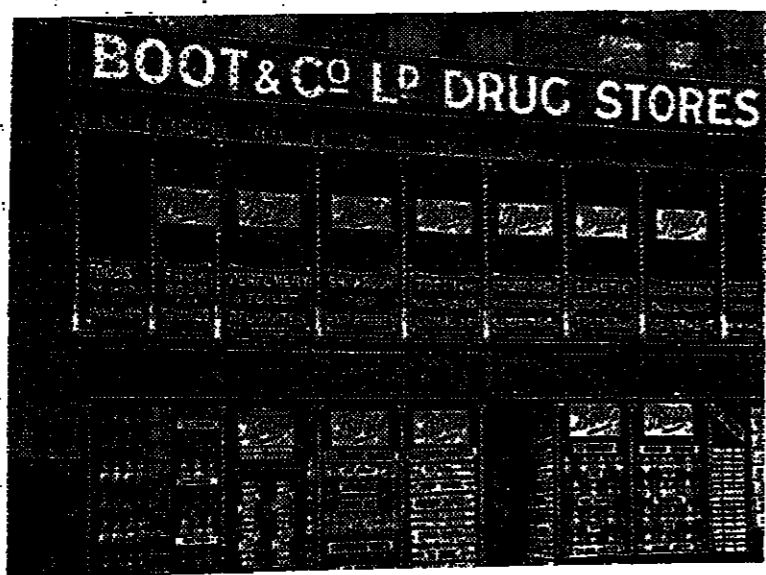
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They've been friends of the family for 100 years.

Jesse and Florence Boot; the founders of Boots and a couple who have had a profound influence on the lives of you and your family. Even though you may not have realised it.

It's 100 years since Jesse Boot first put up his name on his mother's herbal shop at 38 Goose Gate, Nottingham. And 100 years since he put into operation the principles which have become the by-word for Boots: value and service.



Jesse Boot's first large shop opened at Goose Gate, Nottingham.

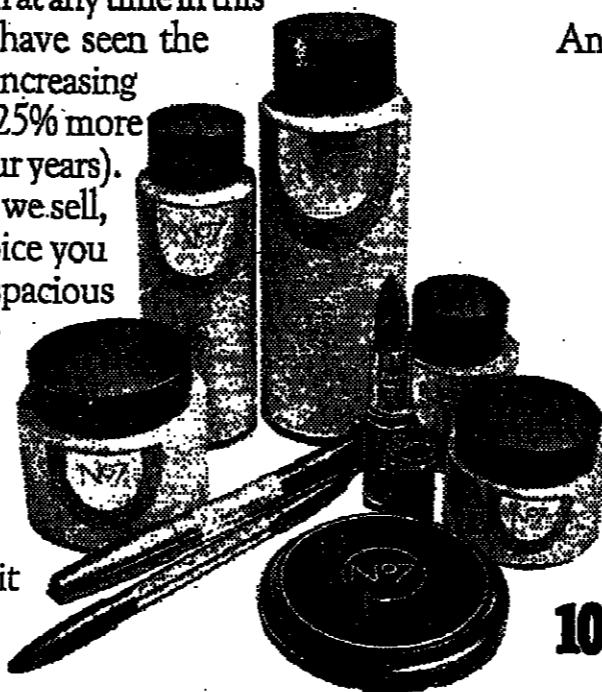
Jesse Boot believed wholeheartedly in providing the best possible article at the lowest possible price—to the point that if he couldn't find an article of the right quality, he would endeavour to manufacture it himself to his own high standards.

So almost from the beginning, he gave his customers this extra choice, of familiar advertised products or Boots' own brands. The choice Boots offers you today.

A Boots store of today would be incomplete without the influence of Florence Rowe, a stationer's daughter who married Jesse Boot in 1886. It was she who encouraged him to introduce new goods into the traditional chemist's range—fashion and beauty, books and stationery, gifts for the home and many more of the things we take for granted in a modern Boots Department Store.

So much for history. What of Boots today? There are over 65,000 of us in Britain working in laboratories and factories, offices and warehouses, as well as in shops. We believe Jesse, if he were alive, would be proud of us and our achievements. We no longer just make goods to sell across the counter. We also make research-based pharmaceuticals and agricultural products for plant and animal protection. And these are now sold right throughout the world.

In the 1970s, the pace of our development has been faster than at any time in this century. You will have seen the difference—in the increasing size of our shops (25% more space in the last four years). In the wider range we sell, and the bigger choice you enjoy. In the more spacious and attractive conditions in which you can do your Boots shopping. Which is perhaps why three quarters of our shoppers visit us every week.



Boots No 7 range is one of the country's leading cosmetic brands.

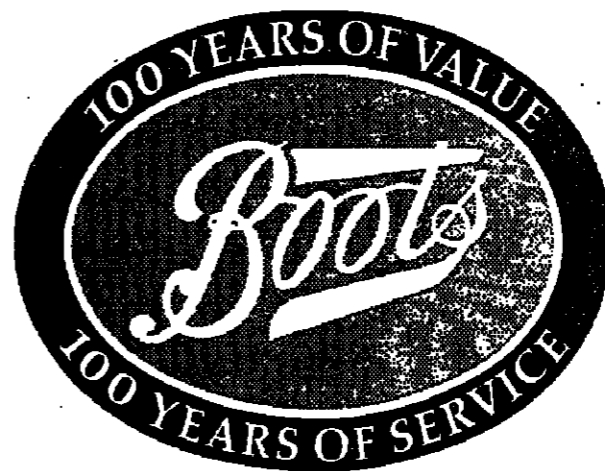
100 years have passed since the foundations of the business were laid by Jesse Boot. 100 years in which we've managed to refine and improve his original principles. 100 years of getting to know our customers,



The modern interior of a typical Boots department store. This is the newly-opened one at Mansfield.

of becoming their friends.

A good time to say "Thank you" to you all. And to start looking forward to the next 100 years.



100 Years of Shopping at Boots.

HOME NEWS

Catholic demands for inquiry into bomb suspect's window fall from Belfast police barracks

From a Staff Reporter
Belfast

Representatives of a wide section of Northern Ireland's minority Roman Catholic community yesterday called for an independent inquiry into circumstances surrounding the fall of a Belfast man from the second-storey window of a police barracks in the city.

The incident took place late on Monday after the man, Mr Edward Rooney, aged 25, had been in police custody for 15 hours. He had been arrested at dawn by troops on suspicion of a bomb offence.

Last night he was still unconscious in hospital with a fractured skull and collapsed lung, sustained in the 25ft fall on to the roof of a parked car.

At noon yesterday the Royal Ulster Constabulary issued an uncharacteristically detailed and lengthy statement saying that Mr Rooney had deliberately jumped from the window while being interrogated by two detectives. It maintained that at all times he had been treated properly and that his action was not in any way caused by the conduct of the police officers.

Discussions by senior police officers during the morning are understood to have covered the serious propaganda value of the incident which comes within allegations of police brutality are widespread in Ulster and the Republic of Ireland. Last month a republican suspect was badly injured when he jumped out of a police station window in Co Tipperary.

Those demanding an inquiry

into the latest incident included Mr Gerard Fitt, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, and the Provisional Sinn Féin, which described the incident as an attempt to "South Africanise" the Ulster situation. During the afternoon women blocked streets in areas near the barracks in the Springfield Road in protest.

In making his demand Mr Fitt, Westminster MP for Belfast West, said: "Even in a normal society an incident like this would have to be looked into. In Northern Ireland, where half the population believe one thing and half another, a full inquiry is vital."

Because Mr Rooney remained unconscious, there was no direct evidence to contradict the RUC's version of events. But a number of pro-republican pressure groups maintained that the structure of the barracks, which also houses the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, cast doubt on the police account.

Mr Leo Wilson, chairman of the local branch of the Association for Legal Justice, said: "Considering the highly fortified nature of the barracks, the freedom of a break for prisoners from a second-storey window into a public street and heavily guarded courtyard must be severely questioned."

The RUC's statement did not attempt to give a reason for Mr Rooney's action. It explained that he took place after a normal day in which he had been examined by a doctor at the barracks, had eaten two

meals in his cell and had been interrogated twice.

It continued: "At 9.50 pm, while being interviewed in a second-floor room, he too two detectives completely by surprise by leaping from his seat and diving through a glass window. The police officers concerned with interviewing him, and with his welfare while in custody, state without reservation that Rooney was at all times treated properly."

The RUC also pointed out that on the basis of evidence in its possession the police intended to prefer an explosives charge against Mr Rooney at a later stage.

Tory visitor: Mr John Biggs-Davison, deputy Conservative spokesman on Ulster, yesterday visited the province for talks with leaders of the loyalist Vanguard Party (the Press Association reports). Afterwards a Vanguard report said the talks had been useful and encouraging.

Diana Geddes writes: Four Belfast women, relatives of republican prisoners in Long Kesh and Crumlin Road jails, chained themselves to railings at the entrance to Downing Street yesterday to protest against the ending of special-category status for political prisoners in Northern Ireland exactly a year ago.

The women, wearing only blankets over their underwear, were cut free by police officers and taken to Canon Row police station, where they were charged with obstructing the footway. They are due to appear in court this morning.

Garda 'tried to conceal' error over fingerprint

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Irishmen occasionally produce a real-life story as incredible and as damaging as any of the fictions so frequently told against them.

The latest concerns the authenticity of what was thought to be the most significant clue to the identities of the men responsible for the assassination last July of the former British Ambassador in Dublin, Mr Christopher Ewart Biggs.

A report in yesterday's *Irish Times*, Dublin's most respected daily newspaper, blended the elements of tragedy and farce in almost equal proportions. For, according to two of the paper's most senior reporters, a fingerprint circulated by the Garda to Scotland Yard and the Royal Ulster Constabulary as that of a man involved in the murder is now understood to be that of an expert in the Garda's technical bureau.

The print was discovered on a helmet found close to the scene of the ambush at the foot of the Wicklow mountains. At the time the helmet was thought to have been worn by a man who had posed as an electricity worker while laying the land-mine.

The *Irish Times* reported yesterday that first tests on the fingerprint were negative. Three days after the ambush, however, a Garda fingerprint expert announced that a print on the helmet matched that of a wanted Provisional IRA man believed to be living in Northern Ireland.

This discovery was related to Mr Edmund Garvey, the Garda commissioner, who told the Irish Government, which passed the information to London and Belfast. The discovery was seen as a breakthrough, and investigations began.

Soon afterwards a second Garda expert, who had not taken part in the discovery of the print, examined the helmet. He and a colleague reported to their superiors that the print was not that of the named suspect, but rather the fingerprint of a technical officer who had handled the helmet.

The *Irish Times* yesterday said that the two experts were discouraged from going to the commissioner at the time and were effectively demoted while tension built up among staff at the bureau, which is the only fingerprint unit in the Irish Republic.

Garda headquarters in Dublin yesterday issued a terse statement. "The commissioner is examining a report concerning classification of a fingerprint on an object found near the scene of a crime," it said. "The holding of an inquiry will depend upon this examination."



Mr Peter Brooke, the new MP for the City of London and Westminster, South, arriving at the Commons yesterday to take his seat, accompanied by his wife, Joan, and their three sons.

Protest at dismissal of priest

Mrs Betty Williams, a founder of the Ulster peace movement, said in Leeds yesterday that she hoped people would demonstrate outside the home of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Leeds in protest against the dismissal of Mr Michael Buckley, the movement's leader in England, as director of Wood Hall ecumenical centre at Wetherby, West Yorkshire.

Mrs Williams, who flew to Leeds yesterday, said the dismissal had "shocked and disgusted the entire peace movement. The movement keeps getting hit by one tidal wave after another but this is the biggest one we have had to face yet."

Mr Buckley was dismissed by the bishop, Dr Wheeler, at the weekend and offered a post as a parish priest or a year's sabbatical. In a letter the bishop told him that intensive work should not be placed on an individual for too long.

Mr Buckley said yesterday: "Quite frankly all I can say is that someone is rather over-zealous about my health." But he said he willingly "accepted" the bishop's decision as regards my future role in the years ahead."

Self-reliance theme in 'ecological college'

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Proposals for a new type of college to prepare students to be self-reliant have been made by Mr Peter Abbs, a lecturer at Sussex University, and Mr Graham Carey, senior lecturer in art at Bingley College, West Yorkshire.

The suggestions contrast sharply with those put recently by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, which demand an emphasis on science and mathematics.

The two lecturers suggest that people can be made self-sufficient through practical and theoretical knowledge of many skills and processes.

They would include bread-making, brewing and distilling, food preservation and building. Building should cover the use of natural energy sources, and food preservation would need a knowledge of drying, salting, smoking and pickling. There would also be training in dairy production and the allied subject of animal husbandry.

The arguments for the so-called Ecological College education are outlined in the *Ecologist* magazine and produced fully in proposals for a new College to be published later this month.

Mr Abbs and Mr Carey maintain that preparations are necessary for a post-industrial age rather than latter-day industrial revolution. Production would be restricted to genuine needs.

The suggested new college would have no servants to do the cooking, washing and cleaning. Most of the domestic work would form part of the training in self-reliance.

Occupations at two colleges as third called off

A thousand Southampton University students took over their main administration block for a 48-hour sit-in yesterday. They are protesting against a big proposed increase in tuition fees.

They promised that there would be no wilful damage or violence. They say fees for post-graduates and undergraduates are to be doubled in October.

At Kingston Polytechnic, London, 250 students occupied college buildings for 24 hours in protest against plans to increase fees for overseas students.

Sheffield University students decided to end their occupation of the university's administrative offices at midnight tonight, provided certain demands, as yet unknown, are met.

Staff at the university had decided to cancel lectures if the occupation continued.

Rate rise of 10.6p

Hertfordshire County Council approved a rate of 69.1p in the pound yesterday, an increase of 10.6p.

Police search for killer of girl aged four

South Wales police were trying yesterday to piece together the final hours of Gwyneth Cooke, aged four, who was found strangled in a lane near her home in Tonypandy, Mid Glamorgan, on Monday night.

She left her grandmother's house to visit a friend at 3.45 pm. Her body was found by her mother at 7.10 pm. One theory was that she had been killed elsewhere and dumped in the lane.

People who walked along the lane before about 6 pm did not see the body. No motive for the murder was apparent last night.

Loan burden 'unacceptable'

Mid Sussex District Council has a loan debt of £23m, for housing and other matters, equal to £215 a head of the population.

The policy committee is asking the finance committee to discuss ways of reducing this "unacceptable burden on the ratepayers".

In Brief

£81,300 for girl crippled at 18

Miss Susan Klippel, aged 22, who was crippled by brain damage in a road crash when she was aged 18, was awarded £81,300 agreed damages in the High Court yesterday.

It was said that Miss Klippel, of Thistlemead, Thames Ditton, Surrey, needed constant attention by her mother. By consent, judgment was given against Mr Robin Van-Tuick, the driver of the car in which Miss Klippel was travelling, and its owner, Mr Z. W. Slagocki, both of Disraeli Road, Belling. Her mother was awarded £4,000 agreed damages, and her father £700.

Flats agency fined £350

Low Cost Accommodation Ltd, of Oxford Street, London, was fined £350 with £54 costs and £70 compensation at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, for accepting fees from flat hunters without giving them.

The company, which has stopped trading, admitted seven offences under the Accommodation Agencies Act, 1955, of accepting a total of £95 from customers in consideration of undertaking to supply particulars of accommodation or for registration.

Rate protest by deputy mayor

Magistrates at Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, granted a distress warrant against the town's deputy mayor, Councillor Eric Hodges, yesterday for non-payment of £51.57 rates. Mr Hodges said he withheld the money to draw attention to a potholed road used by elderly people.

After the hearing Mr Hodges said he would organize a rate revolt unless action was taken after a meeting with county council officials next week.

Union closes file on 'bribery' case

Leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers decided yesterday to take no further action over the case of Mr Robert Knight, former shop stewards' convener at British Leyland's body plant at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, who was dismissed from his job after bribery allegations.

But the allegations were found "not proven" and Mr Knight will keep his union card. He may appeal.

Drug overdose death

Mr Thomas Cuthbert Worsley, author, broadcaster and critic, who was found dead in his flat in Brighton last month, at the age of 68, died from a drug overdose, the East Sussex Coroner said when he formally opened the inquest yesterday.

Bishop's home raided

Paintings valued at about £4,000 were stolen from Bishop's House, Eastgate, Lincoln, while the bishop, the Right Rev Simon Phipps, and his wife were asleep.

Sir Alec Guinness

Sir Alec Guinness will enter hospital for a hernia operation next month and has cancelled an arrangement to appear in a play at Manchester's new Royal Exchange Theatre in May.

Baby unit to reopen

The maternity unit at the Royal Free Hospital, London, which was closed three weeks ago after an outbreak of colitis, will reopen next Wednesday.

Men assaulted old people in their homes

Two men who assaulted and robbed three elderly people in their homes went to a young offenders' institution by the High Court in Glasgow yesterday.

A third who stole from the houses was sent to a young offenders' institution for 15 months.

John Toal, aged 20, of Myreside Street, and Gordon Hutchison, aged 18, of Carnyone Road, both Carnyone, Glasgow, admitted assault and robbery. Charles Caven, aged 20, of Myreside Street, Carnyone, admitted stealing.

Mr Brian Gill, for the prosecution, said they forced Mr Charles Blair, aged 62, of Innerleith Street, Carnyone, to crawl on the floor at their feet and held a pillow over his face.

Shortly afterwards they entered the home of Mr Thomas Catermole, aged 75, who is blind, and Miss Mary Nolan, aged 62, in Penicuik, Carnyone. Both were attacked and 70p and a radio stolen.

Mrs Williams mediates in Avon education dispute

By Patricia Rowan

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has intervened with Avon County Council over the appointment of a chief education officer.

When Mr Derrick Williams, the previous officer, resigned in October he said it was because Avon's version of the corporate management system prevented any effective direction of the education service by himself or the education committee.

The Society of Education Officers later advised its members to check with the society before applying for the post because job specification did not clear up any of the doubts raised by Mr Williams.

The Secretary of State told the House of Commons yesterday, in a written reply to Mr Terence Walker, MP, for Kingswood, that the appointment would go ahead.

The conditions are set out in an exchange of letters between Mr W. J. Hutchinson, Chief Executive of Avon, Mrs Williams, and Mr R. P. Harding, president of the Society of Education Officers. The letters confirm what was said at a meeting held by Mrs Williams at her department to mediate between the authority and the society. Avon has promised a review of its corporate management structure, which it says, had been planned for about this time. The council says the new chief education officer will be given a free hand to reorganise his own department within arrangements agreed at his appointment.

The Society of Education Officers has accepted those assurances and has told its members that the application list has been reopened. The society has also sent out a copy of Mr Hutchinson's letter and asked for further information to be sent to all applicants.

Man senior to commander 'may have taken bribes'

A Scotland Yard officer even more senior than former Commander Wallace Virgo may have been on the payroll of pornography dealers and Soho strip club owners, it was alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr David Tudor Price, continuing his opening for the Crown in the trial of six former detectives of Scotland Yard's obscene publications squad, made the allegation when explaining to the jury how Commander Virgo collected an alleged £2,000 a month in bribe money.

He said that in January 1970, Bernard Silver, a well known Soho criminal, and James Humphreys, a Soho strip club and property owner, met Mr Virgo at the Ile de France

restaurant in Jermyn Street, Piccadilly.

According to Mr Humphreys, Mr Virgo said he was upset because he was receiving only £1,000 out of the £10,000 that Mr Humphreys had said was being paid to Det Chief Supt Alfred Moody, then in charge of the obscene publications squad, for a licence to run obscene bookshops in the West End.

Mr Humphreys told Mr Virgo to ask Mr Moody for more money counsel said. Mr Virgo said he had done so but all Mr Moody would say was that the money had "gone upstairs".

Mr Tudor Price said: "What he meant by 'upstairs' is a matter of inference. But in Scotland Yard, the evidence

will be, that it is on the top floor where most of the senior officers are accommodated. The inference is that he had paid the money to somebody more senior than Virgo."

He said an arrangement was then made that Mr Virgo should receive £500 a week payable at the rate of £2,000 a month, with an extra payment of £2,000 at Christmas.

The first Crown witness, James Humphreys, said he knew Mr Moody, Mr Virgo, Mr Tilley, and Mr Brown and had seen the other defendants. In 1969, when he told Mr Virgo he could not get licences for his bookshops, Mr Virgo told him: "I can soon arrange that. Bill Moody was my old squad sergeant and I'll speak to him."

Mr Humphreys said he would

give him £1,000. They went into the lavatory together where he gave Mr Virgo £50. Some days later Mr Humphreys went with Mr Silvers to the Empress Restaurant, in Berkeley Street, where he met Mr Moody.

A conversation followed about a licence for 55 Rupert Street. Mr Humphreys said that at a second meeting they agreed on a licence for a £4,000 down payment and £100 a week.

"I had £2,000 in a brown paper bag, and Silvers had a brown paper bag as well. After dinner Moody went to the toilet and Silvers and I followed him. I gave my bag to Silvers and, in my presence in the toilet, he handed the two bags to Bill Moody."

After he opened the shop he met Mr Virgo in Dolly's Club

in Shepherd Market and gave him the £1,000 he had promised. The defendants are Mr Virgo, of the Walpole Gardens, Horse Lane Orchard, Ledbury, Hereford; Alfred Moody, aged 51, retired detective chief superintendent, of Ellesmere Road, Weybridge, Surrey; Rodney Lawrence Tilley, aged 46, former detective inspector and now licensee of the Rule and the Walpole Gardens, Bury, Lancashire; Leslie Alton, aged 48, a retired police inspector, of Harefield Avenue, Chesham, Surrey; Bernard Peter Brown, aged 44, a retired detective constable, now a publican of The Plough, Coldharbour, Dorking, Surrey; and David Caruth Hanner, aged 34, a detective sergeant still in the force but suspended from duty, of Courtwood Lane, Addington. All have pleaded not guilty, variously, to charges of conspiracy and corruption. The trial continues today.

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

HOME NEWS

Evidence shows NHS is more reliant on foreign doctors

By Craig Seton

New evidence showing the diminishing number of British graduates seeking a career in the hospital service and the increasing reliance being placed on overseas doctors to provide a service in hospitals has been put before the Royal Commission on the National Health Service.

The evidence has been submitted by the British Hospital Doctors' Federation and suggests that something is seriously amiss if the NHS cannot provide an attractive career for British graduates.

Unless present trends are reversed and careers made more professionally and financially satisfying the outlook for the hospital service is bleak, it says. The Federation, which represents the Hospital Consultants' Association and the Junior Hospital Doctors' Association, says the number of senior registrar and consultant posts remaining unfilled for lack of suitable applicants is an indictment of the incentives offered.

Consultants' posts, which should be the pinnacle of a hospital doctor's career, were becoming less attractive because of grievances over salaries, long hours and heavy workloads and harassment by Government and unions. Inquiries with nine of the 14

regional health authorities showed that for a total of 612 registrar posts, 1,009 applicants were British and 7,796 from overseas. Of those appointed 385 were from overseas doctors, representing 62.9 per cent, compared with 227 (27.1 per cent) British graduates.

A small sample of regional hospital authorities showed that of 363 applications for senior registrar posts, 207 were from overseas and 156 from British graduates. For consultant posts, the figures were 376 applicants, 183 from overseas and 193 British.

Senior registrar positions went to 23 British and 20 overseas graduates and 42 British and nine overseas doctors were appointed at consultant level.

The Federation observes that "the consultants of four to six years hence are drawn from the registrars of today".

It foresees an increase soon in the number of overseas-born consultants. However, "should they choose to return to their own countries, or go elsewhere, there will be a dearth of suitably trained doctors to fill consultant posts".

Unemployment fear: Unemployment is inevitable among doctors unless the numbers entering medical schools are reduced by about a thousand to 2,600 a year, junior hospital doctors told the royal commission (the Press Association reports).

Plaid Cymru calls for a Welsh law college

From Trevor Fishlock, Cardiff

Plaid Cymru calls for the founding of a Welsh law college in evidence submitted to the Royal Commission on Legal Services, published yesterday. The party also wants better training and facilities for lawyers who wish to practise in Welsh.

It suggests that more judges should be appointed and says the backlog in civil and criminal cases has arisen because there are too few.

The party says: "In the event of an elected assembly acquiring substantial legislative powers, the powers of the Law Society should devolve to a Welsh law society responsible for a law college, for the education of barristers and solicitors and for controlling legal aid."

Declaring that the position of Welsh in the law needs urgent attention, it continues: "Although there is no lack of lawyers there is a lack of lawyers able to provide legal services through Welsh. This is because professional instruction is exclusively in English. The Welsh Language Act, 1967, purported to give equal validity to Welsh in legal proceedings but the machinery to achieve this has not been set up. An increasing number of lawyers are increasingly using Welsh in legal services in Wales and the legal education system should provide for this."

The party says witnesses and litigants often avoid having cases dealt with in Welsh because they find the translation humiliating and because they think that requests to have cases heard in Welsh are prejudicial. "Cases should be dealt with in Welsh without translation in areas where the Welsh-speaking population is high."

Plaid Cymru deplores the intention to end legal aid in undefended divorce cases. "The effect will be counter-productive because the parties involved will initially defend divorce cases to get legal aid."

Man in the news: Sir Denys Lasdun, an 'architect's architect' Top honour for National Theatre's creator

By John Young, Planning Reporter

Sir Denys Lasdun, architect of the National Theatre, has been awarded this year's Royal Gold Medal for Architecture. The citation by the Royal Institute of British Architects states that he has created a body of work that has rightly earned him both national and international praise and respect.

"Although a thoughtful and inspiring speaker and writer on those rare occasions when he shows himself, he has shunned the temptations of becoming a public figure and has focused his intellect and imagination on making architecture," the citation continues.

By his contemporaries Sir Denys is regarded as an "architect's architect", modest and retiring and reluctant to publicize his own work. By the standards of Colonel Richard Seifert, for example, he is any-

thing but prolific, nor is he as controversial as, say, the late Sir Basil Spence. The National Theatre, it is true, has created some controversy, but in general his reputation rests on his ability to create original buildings that still succeed in blending with their surroundings. An outstanding example is the Royal College of Physicians, in Regent's Park, which, perhaps more than any other of his works, firmly established him among the top half-dozen post-war British architects.

An admirer yesterday described Sir Denys as the Henry Moore of architecture, not in terms of output but because he combines self-effacement with self-criticism. "He is always ready to answer questions, explain why he did something a certain way and then perhaps ask whether it might not have been



Sir Denys: Reluctant resown.

better done differently." Among his other well-known buildings are the University of East Anglia; Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge; blocks of

flats in districts as diverse as Bethnal Green and St James's Place, London (the latter a typical example of his readiness to accept the character of the surroundings); and the new headquarters of the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg.

But until the National Theatre, which the RIBA insists was not the motive for the award, he was little known to the general public. That may change with the completion of the new extensions to London University in Bloomsbury, when *The Sunday Times* claimed last night that the character of the area was being ruined by Sir Denys' quietly asked his critics to wait until the work was finished.

Born in 1914, he was educated at Rugby and the Architectural Association, and is married with two sons and a daughter.

Vaccinations against polio down by a third

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday that there had been a drop of a third in the number of children being vaccinated against poliomyelitis.

In a statement, Mr Ennals urged parents "not to play Russian roulette" with the disease. He said: "The virus is always in the population. Until recently there have been few cases of the disease because of the high degree of protection gained from vaccination. But more children are now in danger than at any time in the past decade; and there are clear signs that the number of cases of polio is steadily increasing."

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, said in a letter to the Prime Minister yesterday that thousands of parents were rejecting the Government's immunization programme. Unless urgent action was taken there was a danger of epidemics. Mr Ashley urged Mr Callaghan to intervene by coordinating the efforts of the three ministers concerned to encourage immunization.

EEC proposals on shellfish are criticized

The European Commission has suggested standards for water in which shellfish grow that are impracticable and misguided, the chairman of a Lords committee said yesterday.

Opening a session of the environment subcommittee of the Lords Select Committee on the European Communities, Lady White (Labour), the chairman, said that a draft directive on the subject was extremely unsatisfactory.

One of three witnesses, Dr R. E. G. Charles, Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, said that what mattered was not the water but the shellfish that came out of it.

Workers' camp-site pledge

The two hundred building workers who were ordered by a High Court judge to vacate Pontins Tower Beach camp at "staying", North Wales, yesterday will spend today tidying the £2m site.

"We intend to hand it over in the condition in which we found it," Mr Barry Scragg, the site convener of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, said. "Our lads have been under strict instructions not to damage any property."

The JCB digger blocking the main gates since the sit-in began 35 days ago will be pulled clear, Mr Scragg said. The picketing would go on.

"We shall start a fresh rota from Thursday when we move out," he said, and picket the site to prevent any move by the management to bring in outside labour to finish the job. We want a peaceful settlement and a swift return to work so that our grievances can be independently examined."

Allegation that MPs are paid to lobby for bookmakers 'serious contempt'

By George Clark

A report in a Sunday newspaper that there is a powerful bookmakers' lobby in Parliament and that as many as 60 MPs are receiving payments or inducements to promote the cause of bookmaking in the Commons was adjudged to be a serious contempt of the House in a Committee of Privileges report published yesterday.

The committee found the allegations "without foundation" and recommended that the House should accept the editor's apology and not pursue the matter.

The committee had been asked to consider a complaint by Marcus Lipson, Labour MP for Lambeth, Central, that a bookmaker had been paid to lobby for bookmaking in the Commons.

Mr Lipson said he had been told by a bookmaker that 60 MPs were receiving payments or inducements to promote the cause of bookmaking in the Commons.

Mr Geoffrey Plimington, editor of the *Sunday People*, told the committee that the allegation of payments for MPs was made more than once to the journalist conducting the interview. He considered it relevant to the possibility that bookmakers might be nationalized. He drew the committee's attention to a similar allegation in the *New Statesman* of January 7.

Mr Stratton-Smith told the committee: "I gave it as my private opinion, for to my knowledge the Horserace Totalisator Board has no opinion in the matter, that the bookmakers' lobby consisted of as many as 60 MPs. By the word 'lobby' I meant a substantial number of members whose expressed views favour the interests of the bookmaking industry." He said he was not quoted as saying MPs were receiving payments, nor had he said so.

The committee said that the *Sunday People* allegation amounted to "a serious contempt of the House". It added that the *New Statesman* article was also in contempt, but because there had been no formal complaint, it merited no further attention.

Second Report from the Committee of Privileges, Session 1976-77, Complaint of a passage in the *Sunday People* newspaper, 176. (Stationery Office, 35p.)

BBC ready to set up more radio stations

The BBC is ready to go ahead with local radio stations in 26 areas as part of a plan for setting up 45 stations in addition to the 20 existing ones. The areas are listed today in a booklet about local radio, which will be available to the public from next weekend.

They are Alnwick, Aylesbury, Barnstaple, Barrow, Basingstoke, Cambridge, Canterbury, Chelmsford, Coventry, Dorchester, Exeter, Gloucester, Guildford, Ipswich, Lincoln, Luton, Northampton, Norwich, Peterborough, Plymouth, Shrewsbury, Swindon, Taunton, Truro, Worcester and York.

Feasibility studies for the other 19 areas are continuing; all require government approval. *Serving Neighbourhood and Nation* (BBC Publications, 35 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 4AA; 30p). London success: London Broadcasting yesterday announced a sharp increase in advertising revenue, with a total of £100,000 for January. The station's spring plans include a new afternoon programme beginning on March 14, with Barbara Kelly, Sarah Dickinson and Claire Rayner sharing the presentation.

Isles of Scilly planning heads resign in protest

The chairman and vice-chairman of the Isles of Scilly Planning Committee have resigned because they think the committee is relaxing its strict "no development" policy on the main island, St Mary's.

Neither the chairman, Mr Michael Gray, nor the vice-chairman, Mrs May Duxbury, attended yesterday's planning meeting and their resignations by letter were reluctantly accepted.

Mr William Turner, who was elected chairman yesterday, said: "As far as I am concerned the change of chairmanship does not mean an alteration in our policy. I do not favour more bedrooms at St Mary's."

Five recent applications by Sir Harold Wilson to add a room to his bungalow on St Mary's have been rejected in little over a year under the committee's policy.

Mr Gray thinks the Committee's decision last month to approve extensions to two dwellings breached the policy of rigid controls on development.

All to replace area health authorities with districts

From Our Correspondent, Welshpool

Area health authorities should be disbanded and replaced with district authorities, the Association of Welsh Community Councils says in evidence to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service.

"The number of tiers of administrative responsibility should be reduced and serious consideration given to the need for both district management teams and area management teams," it says.

"If it is agreed that these low levels are unnecessary it is recommended that consideration should be given to disbanding area health authorities." Main policy functions should be turned to an all-Wales level, in England a regional level, with day-to-day functions evolved to districts with the retention of district health authorities. They need them, the Association says.

£100 each for staff to move few hundred yards

By Ronald Kershaw

An agreement under which 30 members of staff of the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive were to be paid £100 disturbance allowance for moving office was defended yesterday by the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.

Seventy administrative staff at the executive's headquarters in Exchange Street, Sheffield, will receive the £100 for moving to Arundel Gate a few hundred yards away. Twenty of the staff at Effingham Square, Rotherham, will receive the payments for moving 50 yards to Frederick Street.

The £9,000 cost of the allowances has led to protests from opposition councillors and ratepayers' organizations. Mr John Osborn, Conservative MP for Sheffield, Hallam, has raised the matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr Norman Kay, director general of the transport executive said yesterday: "The PTE employs its own staff, negotiating directly with them on pay and conditions, and the relocation agreement was a product of these negotiations." It was a matter of commercial operations and not a political issue. The county council controlled the executive's finances through annual budgets. Within the budget it was up to the executive to get the best commercial agreement it could with staff representatives.

Mr Kay said the relocation agreement was needed so that staff of all grades could be moved for economy or efficiency. It made possible the setting up of a new radio control room to combat vandalism and assaults on staff.

David Bedford remand: David Bedford, aged 27, the inner, of Torrington Close, Incheley, London, was remanded under March 17 on bail of £50 at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court yesterday. He is charged with assaulting Ernest Hart, causing actual bodily harm, at Rosebery Avenue, Highbury, on February 17.

Seamen on drug charge: Two of the crew of the Malaysian cargo vessel *Bunga Melor* were remanded in custody for three days at Cardiff Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with illegally importing 11lb of heroin. They are Che Yoo Bah, aged 21, and Muniandy Thengavein, aged 24.

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EST EUROPE

Mr Jenkins emphasizes need for the Nine to help Portugal become a Community member

Charles Hargrove
The role of the United Kingdom in the negotiations over the accession of Portugal to the European Community was emphasized by Mr Jenkins, President of the Commission, yesterday and today with a visit to the Portuguese capital, Lisbon. Mr Jenkins, who is in Lisbon for a two-day visit, is the first member of the Commission to visit Portugal since its accession to the Community.

Mr Jenkins emphasized that the Community had a moral duty to give support to the "fragile Portuguese democracy". But the Portuguese economy could not be integrated into the Community easily. It was therefore up to the Community to find imaginative solutions to help Portugal.

Mr Jenkins said he had discussed with the French Government the western economic summit in London in May, and the role of the Commission in it. But he did not indicate what the French Government's reactions were. He had also asked about the commitment to economic and monetary union in the joint statement of the recent Franco-German summit, and had been told that, as a result of the success of the Barre and-inflation plan, France and Germany felt better able to coordinate their economies.

Left-wing Paris daily makes its debut

Charles Hargrove
The birth of a new daily newspaper in Paris, the *Le Matin*, is being celebrated in the city today. The paper, which is a left-wing daily, made its first appearance this morning in the kiosks and bookstalls, carrying the motto: "To give a day to everyone, the courage to fight and the taste for peace."

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Western Communists hold Madrid summit today

Our Correspondent
Madrid, March 1
Georges Marchais and Enrico Berlinguer, the French and Italian Communist Party leaders, are arriving in Madrid tomorrow for discussions with their Spanish counterpart, Señor Santiago Rillo. The Government has refused to allow the three men to hold a mass rally which 10 people were expected to attend, including representatives of other political parties. The organizers are now planning a cocktail party and a conference. The Spanish party, which is illegal, has no guarantee that the cocktail party and conference will not also be banned on the grounds that more than 20 people—the maximum number allowed for a private party—are expected to attend. The party is not asked permission to go ahead in the Melia Villa Hotel without police intervention. The three leaders will meet in the hotel, closely guarded by party members, to discuss their respective problems, particularly those to do with establishing socialism in a pluralist society. They are anxious to prove their democratic credentials in the face of the increasing criticism of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia for their infringements of human rights.

All three have previously criticized the repressive action of the Soviet authorities in rounding up dissidents but in their final communiqué they are not expected to criticize Moscow directly this time. Rather, by repeating their belief in a pluralistic society and respect for human rights, they will offer implicit criticism. The fact that a Eurocommunist summit meeting is to be held in Madrid—the first international Communist gathering in Spain for over 40 years—will lend psychological support to the Spanish party. Indeed, some party officials believe that this is the real purpose of the meeting.

Sale of butter to Russia will still go through

Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, March 1
The intervention on Friday by Roy Jenkins, president of the European Commission, to block sales of cup-price butter to the Soviet Union came too late to prevent authorization of export subsidies for at least 300 tonnes. Commission sources confirmed today. The export certificates are understood to have been issued. M. Jean-Baptiste Doumeng, French communist minister who runs the Inter-Agra

agricultural cooperative. It appears certain that the surplus butter is intended for the Soviet Union, which is the only market big enough to absorb purchases of that size. Under the EEC's "pre-fixing" system, a trader is guaranteed the level of the export subsidy he will receive for at least five months ahead, which takes account of the time it may take to ship the butter to its port of destination. Pre-fixed subsidies granted before Friday's suspension can thus go on being drawn.

Inland outlaws advertising alcohol

Helsinki, March 1—Work today began removing billboards advertising alcoholic drinks on the first day of Finland's rigorous new laws to discourage smoking and drinking. Promotion of tobacco and alcohol in newspapers also ended yesterday by law, but some manufacturers say only a price increase will bring down consumption. It is not known how far the Government is willing to go in curbing the two habits. In last year accounted for 9 per cent of total government revenue through taxes, the brewery spokesman said. He foresaw little change in drinking habits, but the temperance lobby press for further measures.

Basque women hurt as police raid churches

A woman of 21 who had her face crushed by a rifle butt when police broke up prayers for amnesty at a Basque church was reported to be still in serious condition at a Bilbao hospital today, but improving. Señorita Telleria Mendia was one of about 200 people ousted from the Santa Maria basilica at Lequeitio, near Bilbao, in a violent Civil Guard raid early on Sunday. About half of those taking part in the peaceful demonstration inside the church in favour of total amnesty were injured. In another Sunday morning raid, a church in Elorrio, near Bilbao, Civil Guard dispersed about 100 people praying for amnesty. A young woman there had a broken shoulder and a head wound.

Danish Premier announces tax on electricity

Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, March 1
Mr Joergensen, the Danish Prime Minister, today opened a new Folketing (Parliament) session by announcing a tax on electricity and increased charges on electricity developments and title. The additional revenue of 1,500 million yearly is to be used to stimulate employment. Mr Joergensen's statement clearly directed to the energy sector, where collective agreements are being negotiated. If the new contracts go beyond the 2 per cent ceiling, the Government's income tax will be increased. The new Folketing contains more than 100 members. Mr Joergensen's Social Democratic Government has the support of a four-party coalition to implement its policies.

In his statement the Prime Minister said that the election had shown that the voters favour cooperation between political parties. The Government's income policy had majority support but there was a risk of cooperation breaking down if individual parties insisted excessively on their special interests. "The tendencies in this direction have already been noticeable." The Government disagrees with the Radical Party over the new Defence Act. This is unlikely to hinder its passage but Radical spokesmen today felt they had been deliberately misled. Before the election the Social Democratic Party had agreed that any reduction in welfare services should open the way for a revision of overall defence spending. Since it now has a safe majority for the Act even without Radical support, the Government has dropped the proviso.



Workers protest: Hundreds of Portuguese shopworkers march through the capital to protest over longer working hours.

The measures are part of an austerity programme which Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister, said would lead Portugal to a new life of prosperity. "If we don't save the economy, we shall revert to dictatorship," he told the nation in a television address.

Apology demanded by 'bugged' scientist

From Dan van der Vat
Bonn, March 1

The West German Minister of the Interior today sought to explain a decision to plant a listening device in the home of a nuclear scientist without first seeking a court order.

The "bugging" of the home near Cologne of Dr Klaus Robert Traube was disclosed this week by the Hamburg news-magazine *Der Spiegel*, which reproduced documents from the files of West German counter-intelligence.

Professor Maihofer, the Minister of the Interior, rested his case on article 13 of the constitution, which permits a breach of the inviolability of a person's home "to avert a common danger".

It had been established, he said, by earlier tapping of Dr Traube's telephone and mail (previously authorized by the responsible committee) that he had private contact with suspected terrorists and a woman lawyer who had been retained by them.

But the minister also conceded that there had been no evidence that would have stood up in court of the scientist's involvement in terrorist activity. Nor was there enough material available to justify the granting by a judge of a search warrant.

The house was so placed as to make personal surveillance virtually impossible without its being noticed. The decision to plant a listening device there was taken shortly after the terrorist raid on the meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna in December, 1975.

As Dr Traube had detailed knowledge of West German nuclear installations, and could therefore have assisted, or been coerced into assisting, terrorist operations against them, an extreme risk had arisen which required extraordinary precautions, the minister said.

After Professor Maihofer's press conference, Dr Traube told reporters that unless the minister publicly apologized, he would take all steps available to him.

His knowledge of nuclear installations was of the general, rather than the detailed variety, and he would never have been in a position to give any "tips", he said.

The allegation that he had personal contacts with suspected terrorists was a crude distortion. He had voluntarily made a statement on the subject to the Federal Attorney General's office after he had been told of the suspicion against him and had been dismissed by his firm.

Dr Traube said that he had known the woman lawyer for 10 years. The suspected participant in the Opec raid had become known to him only through her. Three weeks before the raid, they had attended a small party at his house. He had never had a serious conversation with the alleged terrorist.

In connection with the affair, the Opposition in Bonn has pointed out how simple it appears to be for a man to obtain photocopies of secret counter-intelligence documents.

Road toll on Western motorists in East Berlin

From Greta Spitzer
Bonn, March 1

East Germany today imposed a road toll of DM10 (£2.50) on motorists visiting East Berlin for a day. The receipts say payment is for a drive from Berlin (west) "into the German Democratic Republic".

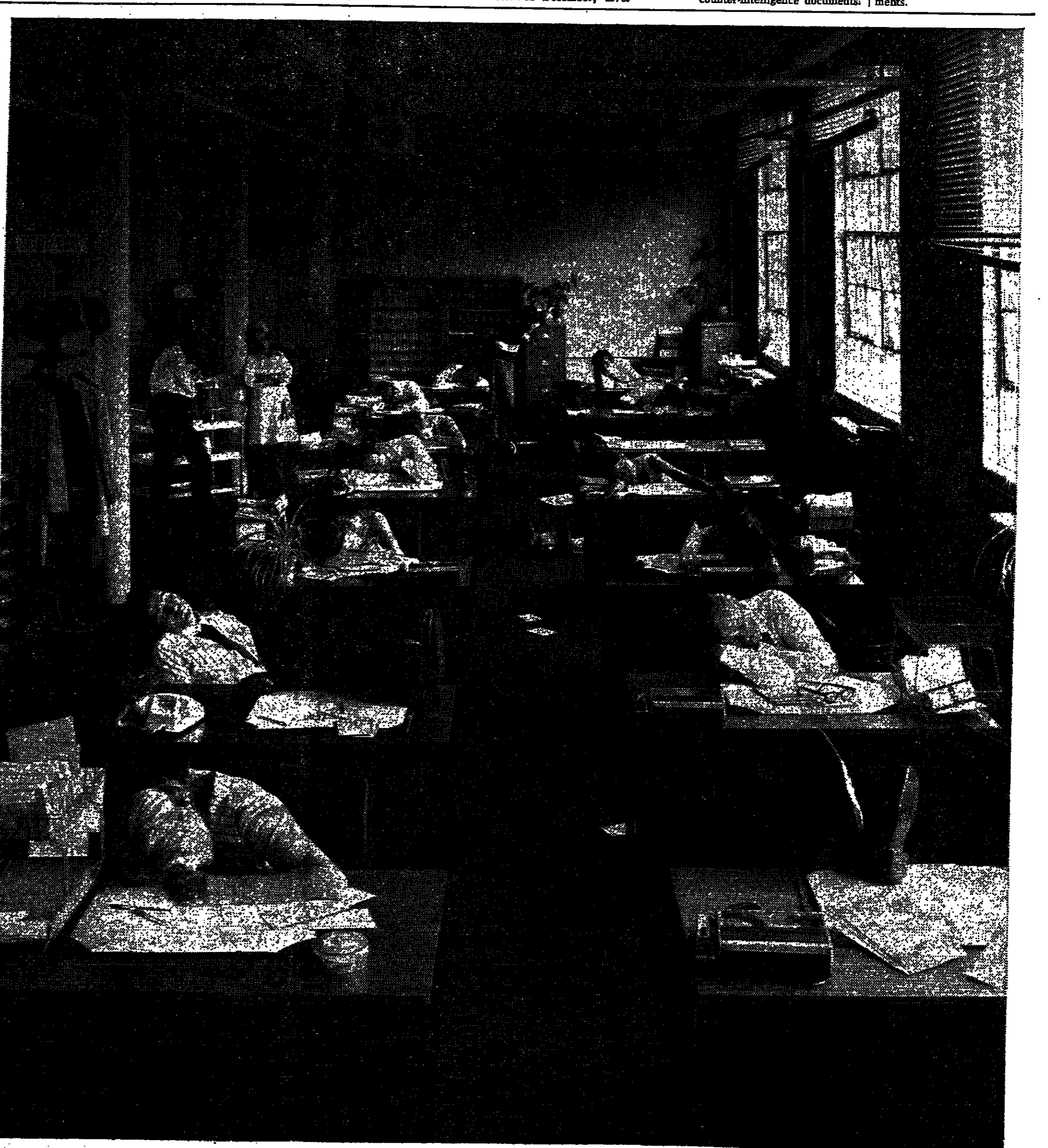
This wording demonstrates the recent East German policy of integrating the eastern part of the city into East Germany and of denying the validity of the four-power status for all of Berlin.

The toll is also another way of acquiring hard currency and discouraging visitors. The matter is being discussed by the allies and the West Germans, both of whom deplored this further evidence of restrictions on the freedom of movement.

The Western allies emphasized that no action could affect the rights and responsibilities of the four powers, the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union, for all of Berlin, or the status of the city, which remained unchanged.

The issue is taken very seriously, but there seems little that can be done to make East Germany revoke this new step towards incorporating East Berlin, other than to protest.

Herr Olaf von Wrangel, spokesman for the Christian Democrats on German policy, demanded that future agreements should contain a clause to the effect that no more payments would be made to East Germany if it broke agreements.



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The Electricity Council, England and Wales

Figure 1. Schematic representation of the experimental design. The subjects were divided into two groups: the control group (CG) and the experimental group (EG). The CG was divided into two subgroups: the control group (CG) and the control group (CG). The EG was divided into two subgroups: the experimental group (EG) and the experimental group (EG). The subjects were divided into two groups: the control group (CG) and the experimental group (EG). The CG was divided into two subgroups: the control group (CG) and the control group (CG). The EG was divided into two subgroups: the experimental group (EG) and the experimental group (EG).

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New York hovers on financial brink as aid fails to arrive

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 1

New York City is once again on the brink of financial chaos. The city urgently needs about \$200m (about £17m) to pay its bills this month, but disputes between local banks, politicians and trade unions have undermined all attempts so far to find new sources of finance, and an appeal for immediate federal cash help has been coolly received in Washington.

President Carter announced today that he is in favour of setting up existing temporary federal loans to New York for possibly another five to six years. It is evident, however, that no more cash will come from the Government until the city resolves its disputes.

The city could find itself in serious difficulties next month, according to Mr Jackson Goldstein, chief of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He said \$21m by next Monday to finance welfare payments, which it might just be able to obtain.

However, there was grave doubt whether it would be able to raise the \$68m needed to pay the wages of public service workers on Friday, March 11.

New York banks are demanding the continuation of an independent budget control board as the price for supplying the city with credit. The municipal unions want it scrapped. The politicians, while making

political capital for themselves out of the crisis, have failed so far to arrange a compromise.

Mr Michael Blumenthal, the Secretary of the Treasury, said yesterday: "I have reservations concerning my authority to approve the \$255m loan requested by New York City".

Mr Blumenthal clearly wants to see the banks, politicians and unions work out their differences before he agrees to provide the cash. He reasons that unless they agree, New York may not be able to repay its growing volume of outstanding loans.

The pressures are now building on all parties involved and it seems likely that the unions and politicians will finally agree that an independent control authority can continue to exist so long as the city runs a budget deficit and is unable to float new securities in the now depressed market.

The latest difficulties stem from a court order that forces New York to meet its obligations to holders of about \$1,000m of its notes. Only the city's general fund can be used together can provide sufficient cash to redeem the notes.

The latest crisis has served as a reminder of the fragility of New York's financial health. It has also weakened the municipal bond market and, most particularly, the bonds issued by New York's Municipal Assistance Corporation.

From Fred Emery
Washington, March 1

American Indian claims to be treated as equals and two thirds of the state of Maine (33,215 sq miles) are suddenly being treated earnestly as a result of legal support for the Indians from Washington and the intervention of President Carter.

The outcome is likely to be a cash settlement from Congress rather than the transfer of millions of acres to Indian ownership. But there is much litigation and politics ahead—and as long when a small number of small sovereign communities—there is intense local concern. A lot of property business has been held up, and some municipal bonds could not be sold by towns in Indian-claimed territory.

The change in treating the four federal cases from being genuinely preposterous to a genuine regional issue occurred recently through a federal court, in, at the weekend, through the Carter Administration, which has now given the parties the right to settle out of court, after which it will sue on behalf of the Indians.

At the same time, President Carter has appointed a special mediator to help the parties agree a settlement through Congress.

The original claim was for about 12,500,000 acres and was brought by the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes. These had not been hostile Red Indians, but allies of the American rebels against the British in the War of Independence. A federal district judge upheld their claim that their lands had been bargained away contrary to a 1790 Act which provided that no treaties could be made with tribes without approval of Congress.

The original claim was estimated to affect 350,000 Maine residents, and included the state's populous and most valuable coastal area. It was amended with the tribes' agreement, in a new brief filed in Portland federal court yesterday.

It now covers between five and eight million acres—about 10 per cent stretching to the Quebec border. An estimated 75,000 to 90,000 residents would be affected.

A settlement will depend on local and federal legislation permitting the Indians to reacquire some features of the land and damages for "illegal occupation". The Indians have tentatively agreed not to sue small landowners and householders providing they can sue both the federal and state governments for equivalent compensation.

The Maine Government delegation—it has an independent governor, Mr James Longley, two Democratic senators, and two Republican congressmen—is expressing optimism over the way the case is proceeding.

Continued from page 1

laced with growing pressure from British trade unions. Three unions representing British Merchant Navy officers attacked the Tikkoos plan to relieve the beset vessel as "unseamanlike" in fashion and more reminiscent of two centuries ago.

The Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association last night sent one of its officials to Le Havre at the master's request in a bid to break the deadlock.

In a statement, the association said the master had not been consulted on the decision to send the strike-breaking force in and he and the officers were concerned that this development would make the situation worse.

Mr Tikkoos dismissed the association's statement as "plain rubbish" and said the master clearly not in control of the ship since the crew had disobeyed instructions to begin discharging the Globtek Venus.

The dispute began last month when Mr Tikkoos refused to sign an agreement with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). The ship had been visited by a representative of the ITF, who attempted to persuade the company to increase the crew's rates of pay to the union's monthly minimum of \$507. ITF says the Filipinos' present rates of pay are about half that.

Mr Tikkoos, however, claimed that when other benefits were included—return air fares to Manila and bonus payments—the Filipinos were in fact better off financially than their British counterparts.

Paul Martin writes from Le Havre: The British captain and three fellow officers silently watched the 38 mutinous Filipino crew on board the tanker today. On shore waiting for orders was another crew, the 38 Globtek mercenaries. "Flowa here by the owners."

But, protected and advised by the communist-dominated French seamen's union in the port, the rebel crew has vowed not to give in and to resist all attempts to wrest the ship from their control.

Mr Richard Hawskley, a Globtek director, said: "We have called upon the French to do their duty, but apparently they want to remain on-lookers."

For the past 24 hours the hastily-recruited Gimsby crew of seafaring fishermen in their early thirties have sat in the hotels in which the company has billeted them in the city

San Salvador, March 1.—After a day of post-election rioting, the Government of El Salvador has restricted civil and political liberties and the defeated candidate for the presidency has fled the country. At least five people were killed and 50 injured in clashes between troops and rioters yesterday.

Opposition supporters claim that Colonel Ernesto Caramount and actor José Morales, his vice-presidential nominee, were cheated of victory by the Government in the presidential election 10 days ago.

Colonel Caramount flew to Costa Rica yesterday and told reporters there that friends had urged him to flee for his own safety. Señor Morales and other leaders of the National Opposition Union have taken refuge in the Costa Rican Embassy.

Under a state of siege declared by the Government last night, all demonstrations and political meetings were banned for a minimum of 30 days. The Army was empowered to stop and search citizens or arrest them without a warrant.

Clashes erupted yesterday morning after troops and police launched a tear-gas attack on opposition demonstrators. Witnesses said the rioters attacked about 40 buildings during the day, severely damaging government offices and the office of the pro-government newspaper *La Prensa Gráfica*.

The demonstrators had blocked the commercial centre of San Salvador with barricades to demand the reversal of the official results which gave the ruling right-wing National Conciliation Party 67.3 per cent of the vote.

Police and military officials said there were no arrests after yesterday's clashes. Some 2,000 demonstrators trapped in

Peking, March 1.—China today used the anniversary of an uprising in Taiwan to repeat calls for the island's "liberation" and invite its inhabitants to come and "have a look" at the mainland.

The *People's Daily* published a picture of Chinese leaders, including Mr Yeh Chien-ying, the Defence Minister, attending a rally to commemorate the revolt 30 years ago against the nationalist administrators of Taiwan.

The meeting, in the Great Hall of the People, was given wide coverage but analysts saw no fresh message in the speeches. As usual no time limit was set for "the sacred cause of liberating Taiwan and reunifying the motherland."

Mr Liao Cheng-chih, a member of the Communist Party Central Committee, was quoted

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Mrs Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, aunt of Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister, making an election speech yesterday at Delhi University in support of the opposition parties.

From Kuldip Nayar
Delhi, March 11

Mrs Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, launched her Congress Party's election campaign today in Delhi. But the crowd that followed her was far smaller than she had addressed in past elections.

There were teases and derisive laughter during her speech near the Secretariat, where she conceded that her Government had made mistakes in implementing the family planning programme and that she was a failure.

Mrs Gandhi said she did not want to blame the bureaucracy, but "possibly there have been mistakes on our side because we were not able to communicate our instructions properly."

At another meeting at Shaladara, a Delhi suburb, Mrs Gandhi said the use of the emergency laws was not dictatorship. "Some people say that even Hitler held elections. But we are not electing him, we are having here. There is no question of dictatorship in India, for the press is free and the people have the freedom of speech."

The opposition's campaign in the capital has been launched by Mrs Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Mrs Gandhi's aunt. She said the authoritarian rule of the past 19 months showed that democracy was not safe in her hands and she was not electing him, we are having here. There is no question of dictatorship in India, for the press is free and the people have the freedom of speech."

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The opposition parties have taken exception to Mrs Gandhi's statement yesterday in Patna that the opposition was constantly reminding her of the fate of Shaikh Mujibur Rahman in Bangladesh, where "the women, children and his family were butchered and ministers arrested".

In a joint statement, the Janata Party and Congress for Democracy said: "Once before, that is within a week of the imposition of the emergency and the suppression of press freedoms, civil liberties and fundamental rights of the people, the Prime Minister had sought to justify these authoritarian measures as false propaganda that her life and the lives of her family were in grave danger. That was 20 months ago. But not a single person has been prosecuted till now in a court of law for campaigning against her own life or the lives of her family."

"The whole exercise was as total a fabrication then as the present charge is. On behalf of the entire opposition, we demand that the Government give a single instance of such a statement from any respectable quarter of the opposition, even from the reports of her completely controlled news agency, the Samachar, or All India Radio."

Meanwhile, Mr Nanaji Deshmukh, the senior Jan Sangh leader, claimed today that Mr. Om Mehta, Minister of State for Home Affairs and a close associate of Mrs Gandhi, was member of the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh, a banned organisation which attended his meetings in Jamnui.

Mr Deshmukh asked why Mr. Mehta had not been arrested and challenged Mr Mehta to deny the accusation. However Mr. Mehta, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, said the charge against Mehta was "a deliberate lie". Our Madras Correspondent writes: One of the largest election rallies in Madras has been staged by the opposition at the residence of Mrs Gandhi for the rejection of the Congress Party, particularly the leadership in Mrs Gandhi.

Speakers included Mr Jagannathan Ram, president of Congress for Democracy, who told the audience "not be carried away by Mrs Gandhi's promises and womanly wiles and accused us of trying to acquire as much power as possible and seek to indirectly control all states by instilling civil misobedience who would be subservient to her."

Earlier, Mr Ram claimed thousands of Congress workers were joining his new party daily and it would in time become the largest party in the country.

Mrs Gandhi is due in Madras next Tuesday on a two-day election tour of Tamil Nadu.

Prague, March 1.—Mr Max van der Stoep, the Dutch Foreign Minister, who is a guest of the Czechoslovak Government, had an unprecedented meeting today with a human rights campaigner vilified by the communist leadership in Prague.

Mr van der Stoep spent 20 minutes in his hotel suite with Professor Jan Patocka, a spokesman of the Charter 77. The Dutch minister had already told communist leaders that the official stance on Charter 77 was casting a shadow over the forthcoming East-West talks in Belgrade which are destined to follow the 1975 European security conference in Helsinki. He told Professor Patocka, a 69-year-old philosopher, however, that the meeting was not to be regarded as an interference in Czechoslovakia's internal affairs.

Mr van der Stoep, whose three-day visit ends tomorrow, told the philosopher that his Government "insisted on the implementation of all the provisions of the Helsinki final Act," covering human and civil rights provisions. Patocka said he explained that the signatories of the charter were not political dissidents.

All Charter 77 was asking for, he said, was the implementation of civil and human rights provisions already in the Czechoslovak laws and in international documents ratified by Prague.

Mr van der Stoep said later this meeting with Dr Patocka had not been arranged in advance. He has been informed that Dr Patocka had arrived at the hotel hoping to see him and he agreed to meet.

After completing talks with Bohuslav Choupek, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister van der Stoep spent afternoon visiting an aircraft factory near Prague with host.

Czechoslovak officials, summing up the two rounds of talks between the two ministers, said that they had both had close or identical views on many bilateral international issues.

"The only divergencies of opinion are in the ideological sphere," the spokesman said. "The views there were inconcilable. Both sides have listened to each other's point of view. The Czechoslovak press has ignored Mr van der Stoep's remarks on human rights problems and his insistence on discussing the Charter 77 issue."

The official Ceteka news agency said, however, that Choupek "explained Czechoslovak position on one-sided disinformation campaign launched by the authors of the so-called Charter organized with the support of reactionary forces abroad."

"I put our realities front of these fabrications created that the Marxist conceptions anchored in the Czechoslovak constitution."

The Hague.—Max van Stoel has suggested to Choupek that each of them should have equal time on television in the other's country to discuss human rights of governments on human rights. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires, March 1

The Argentine armed forces have decided to reject all United States military aid for the coming year, the country's military rulers announced here today.

Simultaneously, the military-backed Government of neighbouring Uruguay announced that it was rejecting all forms of aid from the United States.

The decisions follow last week's announcement by Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, that the Argentine military aid was reducing to two countries.

The allocation for Uruguay was cancelled, as it had also been by Congress last year, and that for Argentina was reduced from \$36m (about £21m) to \$14m.

Both statements issued yesterday and today both countries condemned the action as interference in their domestic affairs and the Argentine Foreign Ministry accused the United States Government of trying to "set itself up as an international court of justice".

The Defence Ministry today asked the Foreign Ministry to inform Washington that the Argentine armed forces did not require the military aid in question.

The American Embassy suddenly touched a raw nerve among Argentine military, who feel that the role they played last year of saving the country from a military coup, economic and social chaos has not been understood abroad.

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OVERSEAS

atmosphere of police state a thing of the past as Syrians change style

Damascus adjusts to tourist hotels, trade with West and a press that complains

in Robert Fisk
Syria, March 1

There was a time when a Syrian turned up at the Al Jeddah frontier post for a two-hour wait for a passport. Officials checked through lists of names and passport numbers for any sign that the new arrival was a person *non grata* to the regime in Damascus. Because of the nature of their work, they found themselves under a lot of pressure, usually by four hours to see to the passport. Sunday, it took me just 15 minutes to obtain a passport, and the two police officers on the way to Damascus interested in nothing more than the possibility of a bribe. The taxi driver was a cigarette, and the road through the mountains of Damascus is sometimes a military truck. The Syrian army in Lebanon but the Syrian capital is a good deal less militant in the past. A new French-style hotel has been constructed outside the city for tourists and businessmen, and the shops in the main street, which once sold only Government-controlled

publications, now display British and American magazines and newspapers on their stands. Those who remember the police state atmosphere in Damascus only three years ago would be more than surprised at the transition which the city has undergone.

This apparent liberalization has had its effect on the embassies where foreign diplomats can now invite Syrian officials to social occasions without first seeking the permission of their ministries. An enormous increase in trade with the West has been paralleled by at least some relaxation in economic transactions within the country. The Syrian newspapers have just begun their first, officially approved, tentative steps towards a free press by printing articles which complain about the government health services, water supplies and educational opportunities.

Prominent among the items which have appeared in the Damascus newspapers are articles on Europe and on the historical links between the West and the Arab world. President Assad, still in power seven years after taking over a country traditionally staked by a coup and counter-coup, seems to have decided to promote links with Europe, not

entirely dissimilar to that which President Sadat of Egypt has attempted in less auspicious circumstances.

Indeed, Syrian interest in Western products bears a quite uncanny resemblance to President Sadat's "open door" economic policies in Egypt. Since 1973, for example, British exports to Syria have risen from £8m to £60m, and West Germany has become Syria's second biggest trading partner. France comes fourth and the United States has already won contracts for a big water supply project in Damascus and for coastal exploration.

Unlike Mr Sadat, however, President Assad has not damaged his trading links with the Soviet Union. Russia is still Syria's first trading partner and the armed forces are still being equipped with spare parts, weapons and vehicles from Soviet factories.

Whether this economic diversification reflects a genuine political liberalization for Syrians themselves, however, is a matter for doubt. Most Syrians cannot read the European newspapers so conspicuously displayed on the newsstands, and the Egyptian press, which might be expected to be a hardheaded and practical

President Assad, Syrian officials suggest, wants to liberate his country, but for the moment with a vulnerable foreign policy and with so much of Syria's military strength tied down in Lebanon — he dare not remove the old governmental pressures too quickly. So it is that diplomats warn visitors that the telephones are tapped; businesses are unhappy about leasing Telex machines to those who might use them to indicate that Syrian stability is not as it might be, and the Mezzeh prison south-west of Damascus still holds political prisoners.

It is still not clear whether these are signs of permanent government control or the last vestiges of a leaving of a regime, which is gradually gaining sufficient confidence to trust its people and play a greater historical role in the Arab world.

President Assad's support for a peace conference between Jordan and the Palestinians shows that the Syrian Baath Party has not changed in its primary aspiration towards Arab unity. But the relaxed attitude towards Western visitors and trade suggests that the party's overriding interest in the Soviet Union is rapidly losing its appeal.



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Dr Owen gives MPs a world tour

by Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

With what is generally recognised as the best diplomatic performance of his career, David Owen made his Commons debut as Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs yesterday in a realistic assessment of Britain's role in the world to which he could have been expected to have been the only the main protagonist of particular causes. With considerable emphasis on his loyalty to the European Community, the Atlantic Alliance, Anglo-American relations, his determination to maintain Britain's position in the world, and his determination to bring to a close the long and bitter web of international intrigue and controversy in which he will only too rapidly become enmeshed. Summing up his attitude to his new role, he told the House that foreign policy must project

outwards the values which lay at the core of British society. This was the only way in which a Foreign Secretary could hope to carry public opinion and without public support, any foreign policy was ultimately doomed to failure. He had much to learn, said Dr Owen, but he would be unable to shake it.

But, while few could have faulted the Foreign Secretary on his motives and his objectives, and while, no doubt, his virtues may be legion in other areas, Dr Owen is unlikely to go into the history books as a great orator. The speed at which he rattles through his speeches produces a slurred phrases and mispronounced words so that often his audience is left, no doubt incorrectly, with the impression that he is reading from a brief to which he has given little attention. One sentence rushes headlong into the next with so little change in pace or expression that any special significance are lost. But perhaps if Dr Owen can discipline his oratory

as firmly as he intends to dispense with what Sir Winston Churchill once described as "mush, slush and gush", there may still be hope for the wretched shorthand writers in the Press Gallery.

Dr Owen, as he opened the first foreign affairs debate in the Commons for many months, received much approval, particularly from the Tory benches, for his aim of balancing morality with reality and his view that Government action must be hardheaded and practical.

He laid down as the central task of Britain's foreign policy the need for a decision on how best to realize the fundamental objectives of promoting national prosperity while safeguarding national security. Effective foreign policy did not simply depend, he said, on a sound and prosperous economy. Equally important was the commitment to the proclaimed values and beliefs of a society based on the ideals of morality, equality and justice.

Royal tour gunman remanded to hospital

From Roger Berthoud
Wellington, March 1

After a week on New Zealand's North Island, Queen today left Wellington, the capital, for six days on the even less populous and more dramatically beautiful South Island.

Coinciding with her departure in pouring rain, a 28-year-old process worker who had produced a 22 air rifle as she entered the Parliament buildings in Wellington yesterday appeared in the City magistrate's court.

The man had produced the gun from a case, with one pellet in it, and within seconds was surrounded by white-helmeted police, a plain-clothes policeman having already disarmed him.

Today's hearing was over in 90 seconds. The man, whose name the magistrate ordered to be suppressed, was accused of possessing an air rifle at Parliament Grounds "except for some lawful purpose" and with possessing an offensive weapon.

His counsel said that the man had a long history of mental illness, and sought a remand without plea for a psychiatric report. The man, who appeared to be dazed, was duly remanded for a month to Porirua hospital, 12 miles outside Wellington.

The police appeared to be delighted at the evidence of their vigilance. Such air rifles would be lethal only at point blank range, and the Queen was some 100ft away.

Only about 800,000 of New Zealand's three million people live in the South Island, slightly more than are crowded in Auckland, and the drain from south to north goes on.

Christchurch, the most "English" of New Zealand's cities and with some 320,000 people the largest on the South Island, has a reputation for wool, meat and grain from the dead-flat Canterbury plains. The west of the island being heavily mountainous, most of the larger cities are on the east coast. Among those which the Queen will visit are Blenheim, Timaru, Dunedin and Invercargill.

The chief products are timber, fruit and vegetables, and aluminium ingots using the hydro-electric power from Lake Manapouri, mainly exported to Japan. There are few Maoris on the South Island, but quite a number of descendants of Scots, many of whom prospered during the gold rushes of the last century.

On Monday, after a virtually engagement-free weekend, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leave by air from Christchurch for three probably less trouble-free weeks in Australia, where republican sentiment is stronger.

Amin restrictions on Americans lifted

from Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 1

Americans in Uganda were freed from the restrictions imposed on their movements last Friday, when they were ordered not to leave the country before attending a meeting with President Amin. The meeting had at first been postponed, but it was suddenly called last night, when a brief announcement said a new date would be announced.

Today Uganda radio quoted President Amin as announcing that the estimated 200 Americans were free to leave the country, or to travel within Uganda.

The cancellation of tomorrow's meeting remains a mystery. Last night, President Amin had appeared to be looking forward to it eagerly. He then appeared to have quietened the fears which had been expressed in Uganda about the presence of the East African coast of an American naval task force headed by the aircraft carrier Enterprise.

The United States Government was taking pains not to inflame the situation. It secured the support of several African states, and Saudi Arabia, which sent messages to President Amin seeking assurances on the safety of Americans in Uganda.

It was announced from Uganda that tomorrow will be a public holiday, marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.

In Nairobi today, officers of the all-Africa conference of churches met to agree on a plan to summon heads of churches for a "summit" meeting of African churches to discuss the situation in Uganda.

The intention is that the heads of churches should consider the position of Christians in Uganda, in the light of reports of massacres there after the recent discovery of an alleged plot to overthrow President Amin. A spokesman said the threat to Americans in Uganda had been an "effective diversion" to distract attention from the real situation.

Washington: Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, said the decision was "a very positive step".

Keith Richard faces drug trading charge

Toronto, March 1.—Mr Keith Richard, guitarist with the Rolling Stones rock group, has been charged with possessing heroin for the purpose of trafficking.

An ounce of heroin worth about \$4,000 (£2,300) was seized in a city centre hotel on Sunday after investigation by police at Toronto airport by Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Earlier, Mr Richard's girlfriend, Miss Anita Pallenberg, was arrested at the airport and charged with possessing hashish and heroin. The spokesman said 10 grams of hashish were found, together with a spoon on which traces of heroin were found.—AP.

Salisbury plea to Britain over missing children

from Our Correspondent
Salisbury, March 1

The Rhodesian Government called on the British Foreign Office to investigate alleged disappearances in Rhodesia of 15 black Rhodesian schoolchildren.

The Rhodesian Foreign Minister said today that according to press reports the children had been murdered on February 15 and their bodies buried in a telegram to the Foreign Office, the Rhodesian Foreign Minister said that the parents of the children, abducted in Zambia were seeking identification of the dead and the return of their bodies.

The Government confirmed that 11 black schoolchildren abducted at gunpoint from a mission school had been returned by the Botswana Government and that efforts were being made to obtain the return of another 12.

Introducing a Bill amending the Land Use Act in the Rhodesian Parliament today, Mr Mark Partridge, Minister of Lands, said the changes would mean whites would have exclusive ownership rights to only half a per cent of the total land.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Britain will not Foreign Office spokesman. It has no direct knowledge of the facts.

Rhodesia role of oil firms queried

By a Staff Reporter

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, will be asked today to investigate allegations that Shell and British Petroleum are allowing their South African subsidiaries to supply petroleum to Rhodesia, in breach of the United Nations' economic sanctions. Mr Robert Hughes, Labour MP for Aberdeen, North, who is chairman of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, said yesterday he would raise the issue.

In a report published yesterday by the movement and the Haslemere Group, Shell and British Petroleum are accused of breaking sanctions through a company called Freight Services.

"Since UDI [the unilateral declaration of independence], the Rhodesian subsidiaries of Shell and BP have been directed companies under the oil firms in London claim to have no control over their operations", the report says.

"Shell and BP, it could be argued, might have been able to take some action to put pressure on their Rhodesian subsidiaries to comply with United Nations' policy. Nevertheless,

at present they are not legally responsible for the activities of their Rhodesian companies. Shell and BP, however, still retain control over the operations of their South African subsidiaries."

The report says that Shell and BP have not denied that their South African subsidiaries sold petroleum to Freight Services, a South African company, and neither of them appeared to have investigated allegations that Freight Services had been supplying oil to Rhodesia.

"The simple fact of the situation is that Shell and BP both refine oil in Durban; the two companies distribute petroleum inside Rhodesia; and clearly fuel has been flowing from South Africa to Rhodesia. There is therefore little doubt that Shell and BP oil has been reaching Rhodesia."

"The only question that remains is whether the South African subsidiaries of the two companies are themselves involved in this trade. But until Shell and BP have announced that they have taken measures to ensure that their products are not exported to Rhodesia, clouds of suspicion will remain."

The report is also highly critical of the large investment plans that both companies have

announced and the way in which they have helped South Africa to evade the oil embargo imposed by the United Nations of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"Both companies are believed to sell petroleum to the South African armed forces and the police. Oil from the Shell/BP refinery, for instance, may well have been used by the motorized column which invaded Angola in 1975. The two companies are deeply involved in supporting the repression of the black population of South Africa."

A spokesman for BP said the company would prefer not to comment until the report had been studied.

A Shell spokesman said the company had been in South Africa for about 70 years and felt its presence there was important.

"The report which was published today itself points out that if western oil companies seek steps to prevent their petroleum from reaching Rhodesia, they could be liable to prosecution under South African law", he said. "The petroleum firms are forbidden from restricting their customers or the destination of their products."

Black journalist held by security office in Soweto

from Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, March 1

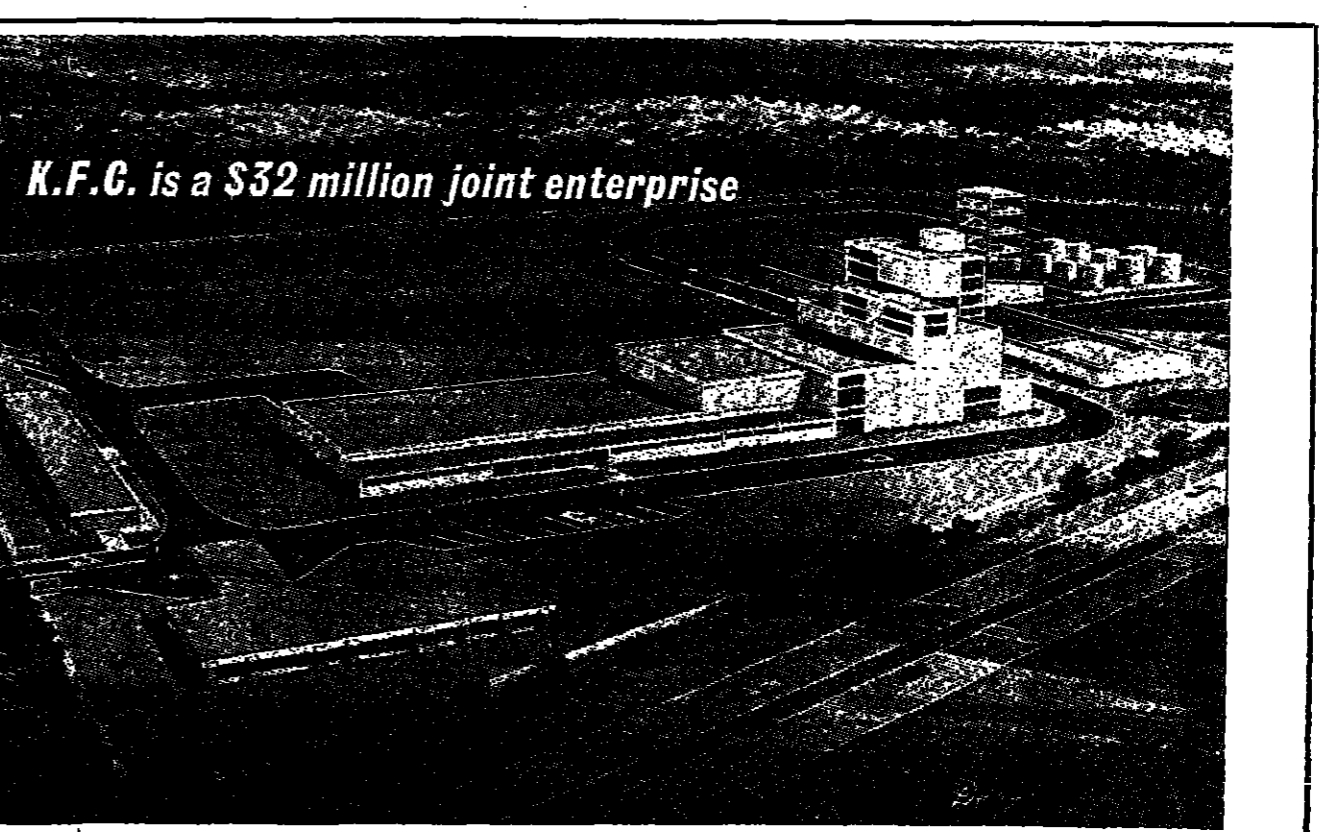
Dr Joe Thlooe, president of the Africa's Union of Black Journalists, and a reporter on the World newspaper, was seized by security police today.

Three white and two black policemen arrived at his Soweto home at 4.30 am and searched the house. They left with Mr Thlooe. They refused to say where they were taking him; he was later confirmed that he was being held under the Terrorism Act.

Last year Mr Thlooe became one of the longest-detained black journalists held under the racial security Act. He was released in December after 103 days.

Dr Percy Qoboo, his brother, accused the police of using out of a sustained and unprovoked campaign of terrorism against black journalists.

Meanwhile, South African security forces are studying a report by the Rhodesian police that the extradition from South Africa of an American soldier, Douglas Sherok, who is accused of having deserted from the Rhodesian Army.



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I'm proud of being a cock-eyed optimist

Robert Morley, the actor, contributes this week's guest column

There is always wrath to come. Some parents, all schoolmasters, most economists, judges and even Bernard Levin himself agree about that.

"Morley," they tell me, "you are not going to get away with it." "What will happen?" I ask these sober earnest citizens, these wise men of the law, these shrill soothsayers of the media. But it is no good asking them what they are afraid of. I am the one who is meant to be frightened. They line themselves up with the avengers.

Once, years ago, I attended a convention of British Israelites who believed passionately that Armageddon was if anything overdue. Everyone seemed very happy. God was on his way to smite the heathen; he had already left heaven and was due to arrive in the Middle East within days if not hours. The glee with which the congregation listened to what would happen when the Red Sea drowned the Arabs was total. There was not a single reference to the Dordrecht.

"Could it be that when the rot started?" Another phrase reiterated by the bully boys since I got my first wiggling. The other evening across the roulette table stood an elderly Malaysian plastering the table with insouciance and £100 chips. He seemed to get through a good many, as men are wont to do when they cover the board. Suddenly he slid to the floor and lay on his back unconscious. There is not a great deal of room to stretch out and die in that hectic club, but they found a doctor and the Malaysian's beautiful wife and his two sons knelt weeping at his head. It was then that I noticed that the old man had wet himself. Death came later in the ambulance and by then play had restarted, but I too, had cashed in my chips that evening.

"What a terrible way to go," I thought, "lying on the floor of a casino, interrupting the game and causing embarrassment."

Yet when I die I do not think I want to die in bed or in the arms of a doctor or a priest or even my own family. I think I too, would like to go just as he did, alive until the last possible moment and never even knowing that he had wet himself. So, too, with the wrath to come. I do not want to be told; I refuse to listen. I have on occa-

sions asked for whom the bell tolled and found out it was not for me.

All this may seem irresponsible selfishness. Like Noah, perhaps I should be out in the garden building the ark or digging the well, contacting my relatives and the conservationists. But I am not. The theatre teaches best that you have had troubles before and get over them and that you will have troubles again and when they arrive you will be able to cope.

I loathe the jeremiahs who never reman when their predictions come unstuck. Have we heard one word of apology from Mr Heath for all the gloom and despondency he flung around four years ago? When in 10 years we are still not at war with Russia, will Mrs Thatcher admit she was wrong? Not bloody likely. Suppose we are at war or just back from war, or fighting for oil in the North Sea: it would not alter the fact that last year was the best summer in living memory. But what about the drought, they ask? Mr Peart himself went and dug up a carrot and seemed surprised it was not larger. It just was not a good year for carrots. This year perhaps they will have a smash hit again; meanwhile farmers will be charging more for selling less. It never seemed to occur to Mr Peart that perhaps we might try getting water out of the air as we were getting water out of the sea.

If there is one thing the artist learns, it is not to listen when the children start to fret and whimper and complain they are tired and have to sit down and beg to go back along the road we have brought them. For once in a while they catch up, once in a while they put their sticky little hands in ours and hear the birds and smell the flowers and look up at the mountain which one of us guessed was there all the time.

When strangers come up to me and thank me for the laughs and tell me they can do with a laugh these days, I smile gratefully and never tell them that is what they have been saying to me every year since 1935. When I finally keel over the green baize and they think it is a gag, one of them is sure to say: "My God we needed cheering up right now. I would not hear him, but I will be happy." I hope.

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Correction
Le repertoire de la cuisine, referred to in last Wednesday's column by Clement Freud, was in fact written by L. Saulnier, and not A. Escoffier, to whom the book was merely dedicated. Escoffier's major book was *A Guide to Modern Cooking*.

Why Israeli soldiers are following the petticoat line

Comely girls are drilling male recruits in an Israeli training camp. They wake the men in the mornings, teach them to shoot, and switch off the barracks lights at night. They do everything male drill instructors do, except sentry duty.

The base commander, Colonel Dov (seniorship permits only first names), told me the experiment started several months ago, and has succeeded beyond expectations. Outraged subordinates who said that male recruits would never be emotionally able to take orders from girls have had to eat crow. For example, the colonel said, when a man sees a girl dismantle and reassemble an automatic weapon in seconds, he has that much more drive to match it.

Coporal Amit, a petite dancer who interrupted her career with the Bat-Dor ballet company for two years' compulsory military service, said: "When I complete a two-mile run at the head of my platoon, no one drops out. If I do it, how can they fail?"

The girls, a year or so out of secondary school, all had previous experience as drill instructors in a women's training base, and responded to the challenge when there was a call for volunteers.

They told me they assumed it was unpleasant for men to take orders from them. Sergeant Dorit, daughter of a municipal official in Beersheba, said: "None of the men said anything and none was insubordinate, but I imagine they're embarrassed to tell their friends at home that their platoon commander is a girl."

Sergeant Mira, of Kibbutz Ashdot Yaakov, added: "I take that into account, and I try my best to explain and reach rather than order."

The male recruits, apart from a few ultra-religious men, said they rather liked the innovation. The base commander said that when he planned to transfer one of the girls, he received a petition signed by her entire platoon asking that she should remain.

An immigrant from America, who ser-

ved with the United States forces in Vietnam, said: "They're knowledgeable. They've mastered their stuff and they have our respect." But a full-bearded recruit who is a ritual animal slaughterer in civilian life said it was against his religious principles to obey a female's orders. "The Bible says men should rule women," he said.

The base's platoon commander, Sergeant Irit, permits the religious soldiers to march five yards behind the rest of the platoon—three abreast like the others, but not quite part of the body responding to the female chant "Left...right...left..."

The base commander said the experiment was inspired by manpower shortage. Military headquarters had rejected his application for additional male instructors, so a brigadier suggested taking instructors from the women's training base. Women are not used in combat by the Israel Defence Forces, and their weapons training is confined to Czech rifles and Uzi sub-machineguns. The volunteers selected for the male base had to master additional weapons including M 16 and FN rifles.

The first girls brought over were assigned only to courses in first aid,

anti-chemical warfare and weapons instruction. But when the young women heard male instructors grumble that this meant their own turns to get up at 4.30 am for reveille were more frequent, they offered to take part in all training functions.

Colonel Dov, a burly paratrooper, said the feminine touch fits into his scheme of things. "I'm not one of those who believes to build a soldier you must first break him," he said. He hoped to promote girls to company commanders soon.

Moshe Brilliant



Photograph: Dan Hadani-IPPA

Avoid examining the doctor

Professionals tend to distrust anyone else claiming specialist knowledge so few doctors are comfortable with expert patients—those individuals with a chronic disease whose experience has taught them a great deal about its practical management.

Medical Encounters (Croom Helm, 7585) is a collection of the experiences among sociologists of contacts with doctors and hospitals, and it shows how easily antagonism and resentment can arise when the patient rejects the traditional unquestioning accepting role that seems expected of him.

Take the case of one academic sociologist with psoriasis, an unpredictable complaint that at one time might make the whole skin inflamed, red and scaling, but a month later can fade away virtually to nothing. Moving around the country from school to university, and on to a series of teaching appointments, he saw a bewildering succession of GPs and hospital specialists and tried most of the conventional drugs and ointments. He learned which treatments suited him and which did not, and how to spot the first signs of a flare-up. Yet when his travels forced him to find another doctor, he almost always had to start again from the beginning, as if his disease had just been diagnosed. Only

too often a new specialist dermatologist seemed determined to ignore any past experience, insisting on taking automatic control of the illness rather than accepting his patient's knowledge of his own reactions and so planning treatment as a cooperative venture.

The sociologist patients also found hospitals rigid and frustrating in their insistence on patients conforming to routines designed, apparently, for the convenience of the medical staff. Early on it became clear to them that the good patient was silent, rarely got out of bed until prompted to the role of ward helper, and made no attempt to acquire any medical competence or vocabulary. A recurrent theme of complaint was the majestic indifference of the consultant and his entourage sweeping around the ward with no interest in answering patients' questions.

How much truth is there in these charges of medical arrogance and insensitivity? Do doctors prefer their patients either stupid or silent? Part of the trouble is that the system is too rigid and too reticent. More could be done, for instance, with leaflets and interviews could be done on an outpatient basis, what the surgeon will do, what the ward routine will be, and the likely outcome of their conversations.

But if doctors do seem reluctant to talk to their patients, the explanation may often be a question of timing as much as indifference. The "big chief's ward round" may consist of half a dozen doctors and nurses seeing as many

as 40 patients: in most there is no medical problem—the diagnosis is clear, the treatment decided; it is the three or four causing anxiety who need their combined attention. Tedious as the system may be for patients, its productivity is high—the average length of hospital stay has dropped dramatically in recent years.

There is no excuse for a patient being denied a full discussion with one of the medical staff, but it is more likely to be the houseman late at night than the consultant—unless he is one of the exceptional minority who return after the formal ward round to visit each patient alone.

Furthermore, while even a minor illness is a unique experience for the individual, for the doctor it is simply one incident in a working day in which he may need to see 50 or even 100 patients: naturally enough hospital staff devise strategies to keep these contacts professional and impersonal in order to cope with the daily flow. In consequence, their reactions to detailed questioning depend very much on its content. Any reasonable doctor will explain what is wrong in non-technical terms and what his treatment is meant to achieve; but he is likely to bristle if his patient arrives with a preconceived view of the illness that may reject "synthetic drugs" or insists on a psychogenic explanation for asthma.

There is a very real difference between the patient whose 10 years' experience of her own migraine has given her genuine expertise in its management and the young woman who wants to tell her gynaecologist which IUD to use on the basis of articles she has read and conversation with friends.

At its simplest a doctor's advice on, say, the advisability of removal of a child's tonsils is a professional opinion which a parent may reasonably expect him to explain; but if the parent disagrees the solution should be to find another doctor rather than attempting to argue the merits of the decision.

In fashionable jargon, the problem is "essentially a failure in communication," but solving it may not always be easy. In the Commons debate last week on the merits of whooping cough vaccine, one MP asked for the risks and advantages to be explained in such a way that they were "simple for parents to understand." There is no simple explanation of some complex issues, and with many difficult medical decisions—treatment for breast cancer, induction of labour, whether to operate for deafness, when to admit patients with coronary thrombosis to hospital—any simple analogy would be misleading.

In such circumstances a blank statement of opinion may seem arrogant, but there are limits to the amount of information that can be compressed into a 10-minute conversation without background knowledge. One of the sociologists talked of "testing medical competence," and sometimes it does seem to doctors that what the patient is questioning is his ability and the likelihood that he has got the diagnosis right. If a patient has lost confidence in his or her doctor, again the solution is to find another, rather than embarking on an acrimonious interrogation.

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent

Campaign freed 500 from mental wards

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

At least 500 former psychiatric patients are living in the community instead of in long-stay hospital wards as a result of the home-from-hospital campaign organised by Mind, the mental health organisation. But many more places in community hostels, housing associations and private homes are needed before the 20,000 patients who are no longer ill can be discharged.

The home-from-hospital campaign launched last April with a £20,000 grant from the Department of Health and Social Security. Local associations for mental health care, organised by Mind, have opened 70 homes and hostels, housing at least 300 people, since the start of the campaign.

Two television programmes aimed at recruiting foster homes for former patients have produced another 200 places. Eight more projects, organised jointly by Mind and local housing associations, are planned. Hospitals that were without advanced schemes for resettling patients before the campaign began are increasingly discharging patients into sheltered accommodation.

More accommodation could have been provided if the campaign had ignored the need for after-care, as its report to the Department of Health and Social Security, published today, makes clear.

Discharging patients without thorough continuing support can offer a way of life

inferior even to that in a long-stay ward of a mental institution," the report says. "Ensuring that the quality of life outside hospital is an improvement has been our main priority." Sometimes this has caused a mental health care team to think only in terms of high numbers of discharged patients, ignoring the attendant risks of relapse and readmission.

Local authorities were making widely varying provision of residential places for discharged patients. Hertfordshire, with a population of 940,630, had 91 places; Devon, with a population of 920,550, had only 10.

The Department of Health said yesterday that it was pleased with the results of the campaign so far. As well as helping to make friends, starting a social life and finding jobs in open or sheltered employment.

The department will not be making a reserved special grant for the campaign, but it is likely to increase the annual grant to Mind. Last year, Mind received a grant of £110,000 from the department.

Mr Tom Smyth, director of Mind, said yesterday that the logical development of the campaign would be to concentrate on training, rehabilitation and after-care for patients once they returned to the community.

Main views unanimous on broadcasting report

By Kenneth Gosling

The Committee on the Future of Broadcasting, under Lord Annan, has completed its report which is in the hands of the Home Secretary. It will be published as soon as possible, when full consultations with interested bodies will be arranged.

The news that the committee has completed its task, which took more than two years, was given in a parliamentary written reply by Mr Rees, who received the report on Monday. It is understood that the committee's conclusions were unanimous, but members who dissented on various points will be expressing their views.

The timetable was planned to allow for two years of consideration and comment on necessary legislation. The BBC's charter and the Independent Broadcasting Act, 1973, were both extended from 1976 to 1979 to allow for that.

The committee's terms of reference were: "To consider the future of the broadcasting services in the United Kingdom, including the dissemination of news, current affairs and other programmes and of television for public viewing; to consider the implications of new techniques for present or any recommended national services; and to propose what constitutional, organisational and financial arrangements and what conditions should apply to the conduct of all those services."

Nearly 3cwt of cannabis found in ship

Senior customs investigators went from London to Hull yesterday after almost three cwt of cannabis, with a street value of £250,000, had been found in a Nigerian ship. Two members of the crew are being held for questioning.

It is thought that the haul is another link with an international smuggling gang which is shipping large quantities of drugs to Europe and using British ports as a staging stage. The freighter, the *Almadu Tijani*, from Lagos, was searched by customs officers.

A small quantity of cannabis was found but the rumourage were not satisfied, kept watch and boarded the ship again early yesterday. The result was the haul of nearly three cwt.

Prentice backers' ban on meeting renewed by court

The High Court injunction granted last week to supporters of Mr Prentice, MP for Newham, North-east, to stop the constituency Labour Party's annual meeting was continued yesterday.

The temporary ban, granted to a group of moderates led by Mr Julian Lewis, put a stop to last Wednesday evening's meeting before it could begin. After a two-hour private hearing yesterday Mr Justice Kerr continued the injunction to enable both sides to file further evidence. The case is expected to return to court within ten days.

Mr Prentice, former Minister for Overseas Development, has been discarded by his constituency Labour Party as its candidate in future elections.

Law Report March 1 1977

No stamp duty relief on amalgamation

Chelsea Land & Investment Co Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Mr Justice Fox

An increase of share capital and transfer of shares by the taxpayer company so as to purchase the share capital of an unlimited liability company did not come within the provisions of section 55 of the Finance Act, 1927, with the result that relief from capital and transfer stamp duty was not available on the transactions. The words "particular existing company" in sub-section (1)(b) referred only to companies that were amenable to sections 112 and 113 of the Stamp Act, 1891, and did not include companies with unlimited liability.

His Lordship so held in dismissing an appeal by the Chelsea Land & Investment Co Ltd from an adjudication of the Inland Revenue Commissioners that ad valorem duty of £33,815 was payable on a statement of increase of capital and three instruments of transfer.

The taxpayer company was incorporated as an unlimited liability company in 1962 and re-registered in 1970 as a limited liability company. In 1973, pursuant to a deed of agreement, it authorised an increase of capital from £1,200,000 divided into £1 shares to £2,609,000 with a view to acquiring the share capital of an unlimited company, Cadogan Holdings. It paid ad valorem stamp duty of £7,045 on the increase.

Consequent on the agreement, the taxpayer company acquired Cadogan Holdings by means of three instruments of transfer; thereby increasing its share capital.

To qualify for relief from capital and transfer stamp duty on reconstruction or amalgamation of companies under section 55(1), amended partly by section 112 of the Finance Act, 1962, the commissioners must be satisfied, inter alia, "(b) that the company (in this section referred to as 'the transferee company') is to be registered or has been incorporated or has increased its capital after the 1st July 1962, either of the undertaking of,

or of not less than 90 per cent of the issued share capital of, any particular existing company."

Mr C. N. Beattie, QC, and Mr C. J. E. M. for the taxpayer company; Mr Peter Gibson for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE FOX, in a reserved judgment, said that the issue turned on the effect of section 55, as amended. The taxpayer company's claim for relief was based on five points. (1) The words "particular existing company" in sub-section (1)(b) were satisfied because the transferee company was a company with unlimited liability, which was not disputed.

(2) The provisions of sub-section (1)(b) were satisfied because the transferee company was a company with unlimited liability, which was not disputed.

(3) If the taxpayer company's construction of "particular existing company" was correct then the requirements of sub-section (1)(c) were satisfied; that was not in dispute.

(4) The repeal of the words "in respect of which stamp duty has been paid" by the Finance Act, 1959, removed any obstacle to the granting of relief under section 55(1A).

(5) Even under the section as originally drafted the taxpayer company was entitled to relief under sub-section (1)(B). Both (4) and (5) were disputed by the Crown.

Publishers challenge court ruling on songs

By a Staff Reporter

A High Court judgment in the case of test cases affecting the ownership of more than 40,000 popular songs is to be challenged in part by the music publishers involved.

The reserved judgment, for one of the most complicated cases of its kind, was given in the Queen's Bench Division last week by Mr Justice Robert Goff after hearings covering 20 days last November and December.

There were eight actions and which Redwood Music Ltd, a member of the Music Publishers' Association, was being sued by such leading publishers as Francis and Taylor, Leo Feist, Warner Brothers Inc, B. F. Warner and Co Ltd, and Boosey and Co Ltd. Only 27 songs were dealt with specifically.

Redwood had taken assignment of the reversionary copyright in many cases, including songs now being published by the other parties to the actions.

The background to the actions lies in little-known legislation contained in the Copyright Act 1911. That contains a provision whereby rights assigned to publishers by authors or composers in musical works revert to the estates of the author or composers 25 years after their death, so the estate enjoys the benefit of the last 25 years of copyright.

But there is one exception. One of the main points before the court was whether a song is a collective work; the decision in the 1911 Act is this clear. The judge said it was not a collective work and the rights therefore reverted to the estate.

Where the words were written by one person, the music by another, it was a collective work, and the rights did not revert to the estate.

Redwood Music is to appeal against the judge's decision. "If the words and music are written by different people, a song is collective work; and plans appeal against the decision of the American Copyright Clearance Center in five cases where the English law is different."

The immediate effect of the judgment is that the way is clear for Redwood and estates of songwriters who have not assigned their reversionary rights to any publisher to claim the copyright for the last 25 years of copyright in joint work and works composed either as instrumentalists with lyrics, or where words and music were written by the same person.

Court plea over grammar school

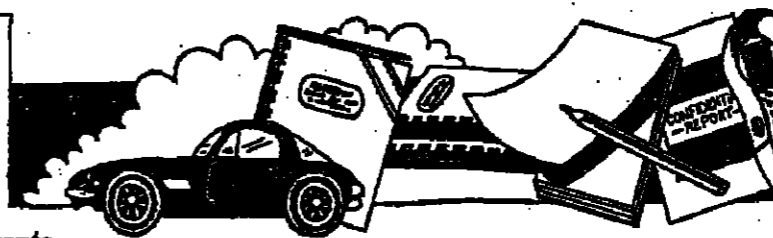
A group of parents and boys of the William Ellis School, London, are seeking a High Court injunction to stop the governors altering its grammar-school status. Changes in admission procedure are opposed by the school's Parents' Old Boys' Committee, led by Mr. Dudley Stanley. For its chairman, and Mr. Nicholas Wood, Mrs. Jessie Gibber and Mr. Derek Henry Clark. Mr. Justice Brightman adjourned the application for 10 days to enable both sides to complete their evidence.

Chancery Division



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مكاتب الإعلان

Bernard Levin

Too harsh a judgment on the difficulties of the reluctant juror

Mr Justice Mars-Jones was in a rare old paddy at the Old Bailey on Monday, anent the case of the juror who felt unable, and so refused to continue hearing the case of a man charged with rape at a Birmingham court. Mark: "Your attitude that day was one of defiance... if it should happen that other people get the idea they can do what you did and get away with it... minded to send you to prison... substantial fine... regard it as a grave contempt... very serious matter indeed... check... first instance I have ever known... if citizens are to abdicate their responsibility... snapping their fingers at the courts... desperately serious state of affairs..."

Meanwhile the gentleman doth protest too much for his health. Sixty-two is just the wrong age for a man to be lashing himself into that kind of frenzy, and before we go on to consider the matter in detail, I must insist that the learned judge, swathed in a couple of old quilts of a reputable brand and gets his feet up for half an hour or so; I know I have a reputation for not insouciantly warming towards the judiciary, but I certainly would not wish an apoplexy on the members of it.

Still, even allowing for the ability of judges to feel more indignant than the facts warrant, Mr Justice

Mars-Jones's outburst did go a trifle far. And in view of the fact that I propose today to go every step of the way with him, I must enter my first objection, which is to the fact that not only is a judge permitted to hear a case of "contempt in the face of the court" arising from a trial over which he presided himself (and this was one, for Mr Justice Mars-Jones was the judge in the Birmingham trial at which the juror was unable to continue); it seems that he does not even have the right to refer such a charge of contempt to another judge. This seems to me a very undesirable state of affairs indeed; perhaps a flagrant contempt in the form, say, of continuous interruption of the proceedings or the causing of violent scenes in the courtroom ought to be dealt with summarily by the presiding judge (though I doubt this); but in a case like the present one, in which the contempt hearing takes place weeks later, in another town, and in the form of entirely separate proceedings, it is surely not a little astonishing that the fact that the Phillimore Committee on Contempt recommended that there should be no change in this state of affairs, and even more astonishing by the extraordinary and wholly unhelpful reasoning by which its conclusion was defended.

There is a simple solution available, which in any case constitutes

a long-overdue reform. There is no good reason for contempt "in the face of the court" to remain unique among crimes in that it is not formally treated as a crime at all (though, unlike all other crimes, those convicted of it can be sent to prison for an indefinite period); the defendant cannot even plead not guilty, let alone call evidence, nor is it thought necessary for evidence to be given of what he may have done and what it may have amounted to. The whole matter is decided by the judge alone, and the only course open to a defendant and his counsel is a plea in mitigation. This is a scandalous state of affairs, quite apart from the power it gives to a judge in precisely those circumstances in which it is least fitting for him to wield it—that is, circumstances in which he is considering what is in effect an offence against him. No judge could or would hear a case of burglary in which it was his house that had been robbed, or of assault in which it was his own head that had been belaboured; nor would he try a civil case between two companies in one of which he held shares. The reasons for this abstinence are too obvious to need rehearsing; but the very same reasons apply in contempt cases, and they do not seem to be sufficiently obvious to have been noticed by the judiciary, or even Parliament.

The solution is to make all contempt a crime, like any other. But that, though important, does not affect the principle involved, any more than does the judge's rage at the fact that the juror's action could have necessitated a rehearing of a trial which had cost £30,000 to £40,000 by that stage and might have been completely wrecked; possibly 28 years as a barrister does tend to persuade a man that the important thing about justice is the money that changes hands in the course of it, but it might have been better to omit that passage altogether.

The defendant had the extraordinary courage to confess his incapacity and refuse to continue

With all that out of the way, we can address ourselves to the main question. The juror, a youth of 20, realized in the course of the trial that he simply could not bear the responsibility of deciding a matter of guilt or innocence which, grave enough in itself, was made much more so by the gravity of the offence alleged. As his counsel put it:

This man found the conflicting speeches from counsel—prosecution and then defence—utterly bewildering, and found himself first persuaded by prosecution and then by defence, and finally found himself in a state not only of not knowing what he thought but getting himself into a state of panic, and feeling he was to be asked to reach a conclusion he felt quite inadequate to make.

He is only 20, and of no great experience in the world, and it does seem that because of his immaturity that he simply was not capable of proving an effective juror. It has not been very long that one has had jurors of this age sitting at court. He was not snapping fingers at the court. It was the very solemnity of the oath and seriousness of the obligation that overwhelmed him.

In that condition, the defendant had the extraordinary courage, after 13 days in the jury box (the case went on for only another two), to confess his incapacity and refuse to continue; it was obvious that this was a genuine plea, not an attempt to get out of his citizen's duty, for had he been swinging the lead, he would have announced his attitude at the beginning of the trial, not at the end. But instead of commendation for an action which I for one find wholly admirable, he finds the entire weight of the law flung at him, including a hearing at the Old Bailey, by having to pay a fine of £100, and narrowly escaping prison. (The young man is unemployed, and may well, if he cannot raise the money, have to serve the three months that the judge laid

down as the alternative. And Mr Justice Mars-Jones added, I regret to say, a final and most unnecessary peremptory ordering that the juror should not be paid any expenses for the fortnight he spent in court.)

Consider, before you say that I am mistaken in commending the unfortunate youth, what else he might have done, and how easy it would have been for him to do it—how easy, and how wrong. Unable to make up his mind on the case, he could have taken his place in the jury room, kept quiet, and simply gone along with whatever majority view emerged, comforting himself with the belief that his fellow-jurors would have got it right. But he rejected the easy course in favour of the difficult one: he declared himself, amid considerable humiliation, unfit to be a juror. A juror would certainly be expected to disqualify himself if, for instance, he realized that he was acquainted with a party to a civil action or defendant in a criminal case, or if he had special knowledge of matters concerned in the case that were not brought out in the proceedings, or if he had some financial or similar interest. Yet if Mr Justice Mars-Jones's view of the matter is followed, it seems that a juror is not allowed, on pain of very savage treatment, to disqualify himself because he is quite unfit to cope with the solemn duty laid upon him.

I have never served on a jury. But I have known or spoken with many who have, and heard of their experiences, and the most abiding impression such accounts leave me with is that the interests of justice would be far better served if jurors were to follow the admirable example of the young man who was roused the Mars-Jones ire; it seems that a large number of jurors seem to have no idea of what the case is about, let alone how it should be decided. For reasons which I have repeatedly given, this does shake my belief that the jury system is by far the best method of determining justice, and should be retained; but the fact that it is good does not preclude my feeling that it could be better, and the self-disqualification of jurors unable to follow, or understand, or cope with, the proceedings would certainly constitute an improvement.

Yet if Mr Justice Mars-Jones has his way, no such improvement will be permitted. I hope that other jurors, despite the appalling prospect that has now been set, will find the courage, if they feel that they are unable to discharge their duties, to say so and to withdraw from the case.

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Sir Michael Carver on the purpose and practice of defence

Peace depends on the balance of risk rather than the balance of forces in Europe

Twice a year since the Defence Review at budget time in the spring and at PESC time in the autumn (in some years, as in 1976, postponed until after Christmas), the future defence budget targets are set under the Chancellor's axe in spite of the comprehensiveness of the Defence Review itself.

The arguments bandied about on these occasions have tended to obscure the major problems of defence, the fundamental question being our relationship with America.

There was a time ten years ago and more, when the argument ranged around whether the United States support of our position in the world and of Europe depended more upon our maintaining our worldwide position of influence, backed by a military presence, than upon our showing ourselves to be good Europeans in the defence as well as in the political field.

That question was settled once and for all when George Brown (ours not theirs) met Dean Rusk at the State meeting in Washington in April 1967 and told him that the Government proposed to remove its forces from almost everywhere east of Suez "by the mid-1970s".

Since then there have been tensions from time to time between the United States and Europe or just between the United States and ourselves. This has given rise to suggestions that we could not rely on the permanent commitment of the United States to Europe and that we should therefore try and create a European defence organization without her, based on Franco-British nuclear cooperation. Those who have considered following this path have found it to be a cul-de-sac.

In the days when M Debré was France's Minister of Defence, such a view was certainly to be heard in influential circles, complemented by the opposed, but also Gaullist, view that as America's interests were inextricably bound up with Western Europe, there was no need to exert oneself to persuade her to continue her support of European defence: she would do so in her own interests.

The cut at the end of the sac to which the former view leads is provided by the total lack of enthusiasm of any other European member of NATO for such a concept, notably and most importantly Ger-

many, secondly by the mere facts of power.

It is inconceivable, in military, political or financial terms, whatever the theoretical demographic or economic statistics, that Western Europe could provide a defence capable of its own of balancing that of Russia, even without adding her Warsaw Pact satellites into the scales.

If Europe began even to take the first steps in this direction, NATO would quickly disintegrate. America is disillusioned and some Europeans inclined to make tentative feelers eastward. The stability of the whole structure on which European peace has been based for the last quarter of a century would be fatally undermined.

Looking at the coin from the other side, it is very difficult to imagine a realistic scenario in which Russia could conceivably imagine that she would gain anything from military operations which involved her in direct hostilities with the United States, certainly as long as the link of escalation from conventional action through tactical nuclear to strategic remains credible.

The peace of Europe and of the world depends upon this risk to Russia remaining high. If she thought it low, she might be tempted either to exert pressure or take action which, in her judgment, ran a low risk of leading to actual war; or she might consider the risks of war itself to be worth running, as Hitler did in the 1930s, although his generals did not agree with him.

The two elements which have kept and continue to keep the risk high are the nuclear forces of the United States in the defence of Europe and the possibility, indeed the probability, that she would use nuclear weapons against Russian forces involved in aggression in Europe or the North Atlantic, with the risk of escalation to targets in the Soviet Union.

Europe's fundamental defence problem is how to ensure that these two elements are maintained. The answer that has been given by successive United States administrations, Democrat and Republican, is clear: by doing her bit; carrying her fair share of the burden, especially in conventional forces. But who is to be the judge of what the fair burden would be?

Nobody who has been in-

involved in Nato affairs since the earliest days would pretend that either Nato's "force goals" or the actual forces provided or promised result from any sophisticated military analysis. In spite of the vast amount of paperwork devoted to the process, they consist of what member governments have been prepared to produce, sometimes influenced by the advice of the major Nato commander concerned or occasionally by that of the machinery in Brussels.

Nevertheless what exists, in spite of its many deficiencies, particularly in quality, when backed up by the potential of the United States forces available in the United States and nuclear arsenal, does produce a balance of power which is recognized on both sides of the Iron Curtain as being a credible deterrent to war.

But this may only remain so if it is kept up to date, and the cost of doing so demands without any doubt, not just the continuation of the current effort, expressed in constant value terms, but an increase, if equipment is to match that of the Russians in the future, and if, as is essential, the manpower devoted to defence is to be maintained at least at the present level, whether by conscription or by wholly voluntary service or by a combination of the two.

Nato defence ministers, meeting in Brussels, accept this. Some even undertake to make an increased effort while others shake their heads and point out the domestic political difficulties. The Americans maintain their demands, knowing that they may have great difficulty at home if they do not.

How otherwise could one justify the United States defence effort in terms of forces? Their principal demand is for a European effort in the conventional field which will convincingly demonstrate that a war can continue in Europe without the use of nuclear weapons, or long enough to justify both the stationing of forces in Europe and their reinforcement.

If this is not seen to be so, and there is a demand for the use of nuclear weapons before American reinforcement is complete, not only does this

call into question the viability of the United States conventional forces allocated to Europe and the North Atlantic, but it appears tantamount to handing the trigger, which could set off an escalatory process, was wasted through lack of standardization. Too seldom has there been adequate recognition that governments are much more prepared to devote resources to defence if they are spent within and provide jobs in their own countries.

Waste, in other words, military inefficiency may be caused by this prevalent tendency, and they are; but at the same time the overall result is to provide more resources for defence, resulting in fact in more weapons and larger forces than would have existed otherwise.

The economies to be gained by many of the measures so frequently proposed to alleviate the apparent waste are unlikely to be anything like as great as the enthusiasts for them claim, and there is always the danger that such savings as did accrue would not in fact be used to provide greater defence effort but disappear back into the rapacious maws of national treasuries.

What then must we do? In essence it is to find the right balance in all these affairs: between the United States and Europe; between defence and independence; between standardization and specialization which inevitably means domination by the powerful American defence industry, and the highest degree of both standardization and interoperability which will permit the preservation of viable European defence industries; between wasteful overlap of function and too high a degree of specialization which could leave one seriously in the lurch; between the demands of wartime and peacetime warfare; between nuclear and conventional forces.

Too much emphasis on the latter could weaken or break the escalatory links between them which are essential to the deterrence to war—keeping high to the other side the risk of action which could lead to war and of war itself. On this peace depends.

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Field Marshal Carver retired October 1976 Chief of the Defence Staff.

Roger Berthoud meets Sir Edmund Hillary

Why views from the roof of the world go further than most

Auckland. At 57, Sir Edmund Hillary is perhaps a shade less viry than when he reached the top of Everest almost 25 years ago. But the tousled brown hair is only slightly greying, the broad grin is still there, and even in the comfort of his home in suburban Auckland, those pale blue eyes seem to screw up periodically as if to assess some distant peak.

On May 29, 1978 it will be the 25th anniversary of that great moment when he and Tensing made it to the top. But it was only on Coronation Day, June 2, that James Morris of The Times was able to get the news out from Nepal. "Perhaps, except for John Hunt (the expedition's leader), James Morris was the only one who realized the impact it would have at that time, and also that it might be possible," he recalled, when I took advantage of the Queen's jubilee visit to New Zealand to visit him.

"Obviously it did arrive at the right moment," he said with a laugh. "It probably gave the climb a rather greater status than it deserved."

Will they be celebrating the anniversary? Sir Edmund confesses he is "not at all that great on celebrations, to tell the honest truth". But Sir John Hunt has been sounding out the surviving members—two have since died in climbing accidents, Tom Bourdillon and Wilfred Noyce—and some sort of a collective trek in Nepal is likely.

Sir Edmund thinks there has been a good deal of over-dramatization of the climb. "There used to be a lot of emphasis on shortage of breath. I never did one step and then required six pants. You are short of breath, and it is a struggle, but it's not quite as desperate as that. It's jolly hard work, but if you take it steadily, you seem to get there."

Nor was the instant fame as devastating an experience as it might have been: in his case, it gave him more opportunity to give his time and energy to what he had already started doing, and he still has the same or similar friends as then—people interested in mountains and the out-of-doors. The change, he says, was more that his interests went from a wide range of subjects which interested him, like conservation and family planning, were treated with more respect than they perhaps warranted. He could get press coverage when more worthy people had been saying



Sir Edmund Hillary: "The climb was over-dramatized."

the same things unnoticed for years.

It was harder in many ways for Tensing, he believes. "It wasn't difficult for me or George Lowe (a fellow New Zealander) to go back to London and meet all the important people and enjoy it without feeling any sense of being overwhelmed and crushed. In fact, we thought it was a bit of a scream."

For Tensing initially, although a man of considerable natural presence and dignity, it was difficult, but he really has handled it very well.

For some 20 years after Everest, Sir Edmund led a happy and fulfilled life. There was the height of the South Pole expedition of 1958, growing involvement in the well-being of the Sherpa community of Nepal, some satisfying work for Sears and Roebuck and an American publishing house, a lot of lecturing, and a very happy family life with his wife and three children.

Then, on March 31, 1975, tragedy struck, as it so often seems to strike those who have all that anyone could want. His wife, who was one of his daughters, was killed in a plane crash. The plane had taken off from Katmandu airport, and was due to land on an airfield at Paphu, in Nepal, which Sir Edmund was enlarging and improving.

"A terrific lot of the inspiration for the Sherpa activity and fund-raising came from my wife, and there was great pleasure for me in sharing this

aspect of it. In many ways I am now operating more from a sense of duty, whereas before it was just all jolly good fun. I stayed on in Nepal, finished the airport and built a hospital there, which was opened by the Prime Minister of Nepal last May.

Building 17 schools, two hospitals, three airfields and many bridges in Nepal remains the work of a lifetime, given him most satisfaction. Not I know of the dog-eat-dog sort, which I rather deplore, but the satisfaction of working with people I like, and admire, and being able to give them a bit of a hand—and also getting quite a lot back for them.

Sir Edmund regrets the emergence there of aspects of western society, like an obsession with money.

"My feeling as far as our activities are concerned is that these changes are going to take place, and I want to see the Sherpas helped to handle them as well as they can. I want the local people to get their good share of any cake there is." Most of the trekking agencies are run by Sherpas. The "sharp cookies" have been kept out, and the local people have some say in their destiny.

He fears that his native New Zealand has become far more materialistic, with a much greater gap than 30 years ago between rich and poor, and that it is catching up with the rest of the world in social disharmony. He is still well known in New Zealand, South Africa: "I was at the last Olympics in Montreal, and it was a very uncomfortable place to be a New Zealander... When it becomes an international issue which considers the lives of every one in the country, don't see how we can ignore it as a purely sporting matter."

He also continues to think that Mr Bill Rowling, the Labour leader, was and would be a better Prime Minister than the present incumbent, Mr Robert Muldoon, leader of the National Party. "I just don't like and never have liked noisy and abusive people. But it seems you have increasingly able and noisy and abusive people in the present government."

It is a common refrain with him, but happily Everest has helped make his own voice heard, and he remains an undaunted adventurer: he is even now raising funds for an autumn expedition up the Hoogli and the Ganges to the latter's headwaters.

The Times Diary

Checking out gambling and the veg

Michael Leapman continues his reports of his visit to Hongkong.

Faithful readers will not have expected me to spend a week in Hongkong—or indeed anywhere—without testing the horse racing. It was my good fortune that my visit coincided with the Derby, one of the season's major races.

Racing is run—efficiently and apparently with honesty—by the powerful Royal Hongkong Jockey Club: it is a standing joke in the colony that its three most powerful institutions are the Jockey Club, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the administration. That order, however, is immensely popular and profitable. There is a total monopoly run by the Jockey Club, both on and off the course, and the average betting turnover on each race day is £8m.

The meeting is usually on Saturdays, but that week it was on the Monday—the last of the New Year public holidays. Gates opened at 10 am, nearly four hours before the first race, and

by 11 am the public enclosure was full and the gates closed. The four-tier stand was packed with an unbroken mass of 25,000 faces. To fill in the long wait, I was told, they made paper darts and took bets on who could throw them farthest.

Things were more relaxed in the members' enclosure, and positively sublime in the Hongkong Club's bit of it, where the cream of local (white) society, dressed in their smartest clothes and helped themselves to a splendid buffet lunch, with plenty of drink. At four o'clock, after the fifth race, tea and dainty cakes were served.

The racing is of a high standard, with horses and jockeys imported from England and Australia.

The Jockey Club buys all the horses, to ensure a consistent standard, then sells them to individual owners. A limited number are bought each year, to keep the total in training around 300.

Although there are a number of individual trainers, all the horses have to be kept in the

multi-storey stables across the road from the course at Happy Valley, adjoining the cemetery. Hongkong being short of space, everything is built upwards, rather than outwards, so the horses on the top floors face a long climb up ramps to get home. When they leave for their dawn training sessions on the course, they wear rubber overshoes to avoid waking nearby residents.

The Chinese like fancy bets—doubles, forecasts, trebles, double forecasts, and one in which they have to name the first four horses in a race, in any order. More than twice as much is staked on these than on standard win or place bets. They carefully study the odds on the electronic tote board, and buy fistfuls of tickets at denominations of between 70 pence and £70. Yet even this does not satisfy their thirst for a gamble, because thousands of them, at the end of the meeting, go off to patronize the illegal bookmakers who take bets on dog racing in Macao.

Big money

Better still, thousands of them crowd the ferries, jet foils and hydrofoils and go off to Macao itself. The authorities on this small Portuguese-administered enclave tell you rather pointedly that it has more to offer than gambling, but the dominant im-

pression on the visitor is of what the publicity brochure calls "the Las Vegas of the Orient", or, taking a second view, "the Monte Carlo of the East".

I went there on the day after the New Year holiday had formally ended, but the casinos were still packed with visitors from Hongkong, elbowing each other out of the way to get to the tables. Money flows prodigiously. At some tables the minimum single bet is £12 and I saw people manipulating large piles of chips of that denomination.

The western games of roulette, baccarat and blackjack are less popular than the Chinese specialties of fan-tan, where you have to guess how many buttons the dealer will have left in his pile after removing four at a time—or "big and small", where you bet on whether three dice will show a high or low total of pips. The fruit machines, of bewildering complexity, are well patronized with some players carrying their coins round in buckets.

The syndicate of Hongkong businessmen who run the Macao gambling pay £4 million a year for the privilege, and it is cheap at the price. One of them has just built a fine house on the peninsula's most favoured hillside, far removed in splendour from the Portu-

guese Governor, which could do with a coat of paint. The syndicate also control most of the hotels and one of the two hydrofoil services which have cut the trip from Hongkong to Macao to an hour. It is Macao's only link with the outside world, since there is no airport and the land gate to China is not much help to tourists.

The largest casino is at the 600-room Hotel Lisboa, an extraordinarily ugly structure in the middle of town with 600 bedrooms, two whole floors of gambling and the second largest chandelier in the world. (The largest, I was confidently informed, is in Germany.) The administration, rightly fearful that any more like that would ruin the character of the place, have forbidden further destruction of the Portuguese colonial-style buildings.

Another main attraction for visitors from Hongkong is that they can let off firecrackers at New Year to drive away demons—a practice banned in Hongkong since the Red Guard riots of 1967. They were taking advantage of that during my visit, setting off a fearsome fusillade which lasted all evening.

Then there is the Pousada de Macao, which I was told by a friend in Hongkong was one of the great restaurants of the world. That may be an exaggeration, but it is certainly one of

the least pretentious fine restaurants, with uncomfortable seats and tables, and decor of unredeemed starkness. It is also far from lavish. My rightly chosen African chicken, delicately spiced, was served with just three chips: I counted them.

Greens

As well as going to the races, it is becoming inevitable that whenever I travel abroad I should take a look at vegetable production. My experience of Brixton agriculture leads my hosts to the conviction that I am something of an authority in this area. It would be churlish to dissuade them of this belief, so I drove to the New Territories with Dr O. T. Wong, the Government's Acting Assistant Director of Agriculture, to see what he had to show.

Hongkong's intractable difficulty is that it has to support 4,500,000 people—more than there are in New Zealand—in only 400 square miles, much of it hilly and unsuitable for either habitation or cultivation.

All the same, the colony is now producing about half its vegetable consumption. Some 12,000 acres are given over to vegetable growing, most of it land that was formerly used for growing rice, and some of it of fertilizers, and irrigation—Wong said, to grow rice in so

small an area. The same acreage of rice would supply Hongkong's consumption for only three or four days.

The ground, for the most part, is too sandy to be ideal, but the farmers make good use of fertilizers and irrigation—water is supplied free by the



Government. Some have created flourishing vegetable plots at what is called the beach.

They grow mainly green leafy vegetables with a short growing season. Because of the absence of severe weather they can fit in several harvests every year.

About 16 miles out of Hongkong we stopped to look at the five acres farmed by Mr Ng, one of the ace cultivators of the New Territories. Since a farmer is reckoned to be able to earn between £3,000 and £4,000 an acre he was clearly a wealthy man.

His main crop was flowering cabbage, a brassica with a thick stem and yellow flowers, which are steamed and eaten along with the leaf. There was also the leafy Chinese cabbage (which I failed to grow in Brixton last year) as well as a little broccoli and a large area of curly-leaved lettuce.

Each crop was in many different stages of development, from seedlings to fully mature. Sowing for succession, which the gardening books urge us all to do, is much easier in this moderate climate. In the heat of the summer, though, it is too hot for most of these crops, and Mr Ng switches to cucumbers, melons and French beans. It is not a bit like Brixton.

PHS

SON CARR

ive novelist

MANAGEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION

Germany stands firm against OECD pressures to reflate

By David Blake

Germany's position seems to have moved one iota towards greater stimulation, but the German government is still firmly against the OECD's demand for a more active role in the world economy.

The German government's position is clear. It is not to be moved from its position of firmness. The German government is not to be moved from its position of firmness. The German government is not to be moved from its position of firmness.

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Ministers study CBI plans for industrial democracy

By Malcolm Brown

Ministers last night spent 90 minutes with employers' leaders examining ideas put forward by the Confederation of British Industry for industrial democracy.

The question of the CBI's demand for industrial democracy is a matter of some importance. The CBI is not to be moved from its position of firmness. The CBI is not to be moved from its position of firmness. The CBI is not to be moved from its position of firmness.

The CBI's demand for industrial democracy is a matter of some importance. The CBI is not to be moved from its position of firmness. The CBI is not to be moved from its position of firmness. The CBI is not to be moved from its position of firmness.

Unilever disappoints despite 84 pc surge in profits

By Our Financial Staff

Unilever increased pre-tax profits by 84 per cent to £605.1m in 1976, with sterling's fall against the Dutch guilder contributing a gain of about £76m to the year-end.

But a slowdown in profits growth to 11 per cent on a directly comparable exchange basis in the final quarter disappointed the stock market, and the shares closed 10p lower at 44p.

The group reports that combined sales of the Dutch and United Kingdom groups rose 29 per cent to £8,726m, although the improvement drops to 14 per cent without the added effect of parity changes.

In line with the equalization agreement with the Dutch group, Unilever declared total

Babcock raises bid for Herbert Morris to 148p

Babcock & Wilcox last night raised its takeover bid terms for Herbert Morris, the Loughborough-based engineering firm, to 148p a share, a 20p increase on the previous offer.

However, Morris shares, which for some time have been trading considerably higher than the original Babcock offer, rose yesterday in advance of the announcement by 8p to 148p.

The management and workers of Morris had strongly opposed the original offer. Babcock has 32.25 per cent of the company's equity.

A statement from Herbert Morris last night said the offer was "desirable both in relation to earnings and to asset value" and the directors strongly advised shareholders not to sell.

Dr James Schlesinger heads new body which merges more than 20 government agencies

Mr Carter sets up \$10,000m energy team

From Frank Vogl

Washington, March 1

President Carter today proposed the establishment of a Department of Energy that will have a \$10,000m (nearly £5,000m) annual budget and employ about 20,000 people.

The proposal represents one of the largest government reorganization plans seen here in many years. The head of the new department will be Dr James Schlesinger, the President's special assistant for energy affairs and the former Secretary of Defense.

The Carter Administration intends to announce a detailed and comprehensive set of energy policies by April 20. Today's announcements deal solely with the organization of the new department.

The President said he did not intend to ask Congress for a 20 to 25 cents a gallon increase in the Federal petrol tax, although Dr Schlesinger did not rule out the possibility that the plans to be announced on April 20 might include a petrol tax increase.

The President said that creation of the department "is long overdue. . . . This department will make it possible quickly to evolve an energy policy."

The department would comprise many of the energy agencies that now exist and "whose missions overlap and sometimes conflict."

Congressional reaction to today's announcement was largely positive and, while it may take some time before the Congress acts to establish the new department, the creation of the plan today does not go quite as far as had been expected, because the new department will not be given powers over environmental or safety questions, nor will it have control of the nuclear regulatory commission.

The department will merge the Federal Energy Administration, the Energy Research and Development Administration, and the Federal Power Commission, some 20 other government agencies. In addition, the new department will take over the energy responsibilities now shouldered by the Departments of Interior and Defense.

Outlines of the department's policies have to some extent already been divulged by administration officials and by those sections of the Administration's budget dealing with energy. It is clear that the department will concentrate on greatly expanding domestic coal production, while slowing spending on nuclear energy research and development.

It is also clear that tough new regulations aimed at increasing energy conservation will be a main part of the new policies to be announced in April. The department will also seek to move swiftly to establish large special oil reserves for use only at times of emergency.

The urgent need for an energy department was highlighted by the extremely cold weather in January and the inability of the federal Govern-

Shake up of public sector industry in Italy

From John Earle

Rome, March 1

Breaking up the loss-ridden Egam Corporation as part of a general reorganization of public sector industry was proposed by the Italian government last night.

Signor Antonio Bisaglia, the Minister for State-owned Industry, told the Chamber of Deputies Budget Commission that Egam's accumulated losses amounted to 512,000 lire (£24.7m) and its debts to 908,000 lire of which 808,000 were short term.

The minister asked Parliament to approve splitting up Egam, so that its special steel sector would go to part of the IRI group, its textile machinery sector to ENI, and its mining and minerals operations would either be taken out of the public sector or, if they remained, would be financed on an ad hoc basis.

Signor Bisaglia further suggested the abolition of the smaller corporations EAGAT (mineral waters and thermal springs) and Ente Cinema (motion picture industry), so that in practice public sector industry would be reduced to three corporations: IRI, ENI, the hydrocarbons and energy corporation, and the smaller conglomerate EFIM.

These three would in themselves be streamlined through the rationalization of their sectors of activity.

The minister's address amounted to a tacit admission of failure of the way the public sector has been administered. The proposed changes, if they are ever implemented in their present form, will represent the biggest shake-up in the public sector since IRI itself was formed from the ashes of the depression of the early 1930s.

At IRI, the management of Professor Giuseppe Petrilli, chairman since 1960, is being criticised in a report by 13 out of the 15 top executives, who have refused to accept his latest personnel changes.

On Egam, Signor Bisaglia said that the split-up and reorganization of those group companies which could be rescued would entail a cost, in addition to resources already earmarked, of 221,300m lire for repayment of debt commitments and 305,000m lire for recapitalization of group companies.

Egam, which employs 34,000 people, became operational in 1971 when Signor Flaminio Piccoli was Christian Democrat Minister of State-owned Industry, and ran into disaster last year.

Its mismanagement led to the departure as chairman of Signor Mario Einaudi, who has since claimed an estimated 1,200m lire as a golden handshake for loss of office.

Hopes rising for further cut in MLR

By Our Financial Staff

Much easier conditions in the London money markets yesterday, as the end-of-the-month payments worked their way through the banking system, set money dealers and the discount houses speculating about the possibility that minimum lending rate will be brought back into line with the market on Friday, after four weeks in which it has been held artificially at 12 per cent by the Bank of England.

Thanks to the increased availability of funds, dealers were, at any rate, reasonably confident that there would be no attempt by the Bank of England to restrain the fall in interest rates this week by once again obliging the discount houses to borrow for seven days at minimum lending rate—which was three points lower than it was when the Bank suspended the minimum lending rate formula at the beginning of February, is now a considerable penalty.

Speculation that the downward trend of interest rates will be controlled less rigorously than hitherto was given further impetus by the expectation that the figures for the reserves, which are due to be published today, will show that there was respectable growth.

The argument is that the relative strength of the reserves will permit the Bank of England to allow the pound (which closed marginally lower against the dollar last night at \$1.7135) to float freely, or interest rates to fall.

The expectation of lower rates sent the gilt-edged market sharply better at the longer end yesterday.

Strength at the longer end has been further fuelled by the fact that there are no sellers—partly because the Government is selling no stock through the "tap", and partly because some of the institutions, notably the insurance companies, are now sitting on such big capital gains that they are inhibited from operating their normal policy of rolling over their stock by the prospect of incurring big capital gains tax liabilities.

Beecham Group paying £48m for US pharmaceuticals business

By Ray Maughan

Beecham Group is paying £48m in cash for the Calgon consumer products business of the Merck group in the United States. This is the largest takeover bid by the British pharmaceuticals and consumer products company since its ill-fated £38.5m offer for Glaxo in 1972.

Beecham is to provide £23.5m of the \$82m purchase price and the balance will be deferred for up to two years bearing interest at a normal commercial rate of around 8 per cent.

Calgon's net assets, comprising two factories and stock, have a book value of \$35m and the goodwill element of \$47m compares with the total consideration of \$53m which Beecham paid for pharmaceuticals and consumer products manufacturer, Massengill, in 1971.

Defending the price paid for Calgon, Mr G. J. Wilkins, Beecham chairman, said yesterday that "successful, soundly-based United States businesses cannot be bought cheaply". He said that Calgon had attracted much interest from other potential buyers in the United States but he denied that "we were in a hurry".

He was certain that "we can more than wash our face on interest charges" likely to amount to about \$3m this year, and he forecast a "significant" profit improvement.

Calgon slumped last year from a profit of \$8,900,000 to a loss of \$400,000 as a result of exceptionally heavy promotional expenditure which added a further \$10m to the normal \$35m promotional bill. Beecham is happy, nonetheless, that Calgon is "very healthy".

Until this acquisition, Mr Wilkins said, Beecham's presence in the United States has been profitable but it lacked the required size and, therefore, marketing strength. "He was convinced that Calgon, through its brand leadership in throat lozenges and Calgon water-softener, its Hold cough suppressant and the ClingFree anti-static fabric softener, will have a comparable impact on the consumer's view of products as business as the acquisition of Massengill in the pharmaceuticals division."

In sales terms Beecham was roughly trebling its existing American consumer turnover.

The deal will reduce Beecham's dependence on the United Kingdom market from 34.2 per cent to 31.1 per cent on 1976 figures, while the consumer products contribution will rise from 62.4 per cent to 72.7 per cent of last year's total sales.

The board refused to comment yesterday on suggestions that it would make a United Kingdom acquisition to increase the currently six times covered dividend.

Financial Editor, page 23

Standard bid rejected by BanCal

US Economics Correspondent

Washington, March 1

Bancal Tri-State Corporation's board voted unanimously today to reject a takeover bid made by Standard Chartered Bank of London.

Mr Chauncey Schmidt, the Bancal chairman, said after the board meeting that today's decision represents a vote of confidence by the directors in the company's future under its existing management. "The board determined the offer was not in the best interest of the corporation" and its shareholders, accordingly it was rejected," he said.

Lord Barber, chairman of Standard Chartered, said in California last night that although he was disappointed it would not affect the bank's plans to continue expanding in California.

Guinness Peat faces writ

Guinness Peat, the merchant banking and commodities concern headed by Lord Kinnaird, is facing a multimillion dollar legal action over a commodities deal.

The action, which alleges breach of contract, has come to light in an affidavit sent out by Guinness Peat in connection with its bid for London Electrical and General Trust.

It is understood the commodities transaction took place two or three years ago and involved a subsidiary of Lewis & Peat, the commodities arm of the group.

The offer document states that the action is for "very substantial damages for alleged breach of contract". However, it goes on to say that the present opinion of Guinness Peat's legal advisers is that the claim will fail.

"So far as the subsidiary is concerned, the action is being strenuously resisted both on liability and on damages," Directors of Guinness Peat do not believe that these proceedings are likely to have any material effect on the financial position of the company.

Coffee soars again

For the second time in less than a week the more distant coffee positions went over £4,000 per tonne yesterday. "Spot" March coffee, although below this level, advanced by £210 per tonne to £3,570. Cocoa was also strong, "spot" March putting on £100.25 per tonne to £2,642.50.

Commodities, page 25

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls	Equities gave up early gains.	changed at 43.1 per cent.
Beecham 8p to 41sp	Anglo Int Inv 3p to 34p	Gilt-edged securities made more headway.	Gold fell \$1.50 an ounce to \$141.625.
BTR 18p to 19sp	Dunelm 10p to 82p	Stirling lost 5 points to close at \$1.75.	S&P 500 rose 1.15719 on Tuesday, while SDR-E was 0.676126.
Imperial 10p to 22sp	Electra Inv 7p to 84p	Index of 15 effective depreciation on new basis is 61.7 (December 1970=100). Rates on old basis, depreciation rates is unchanged.	Commodities: Rubber's index was at 1680.4 (previous 1669.0).
Finlay, J. 8p to 17sp	Goode, D. & M. 1p to 19p		Reports, pages 24 and 25
Harrison Cros 25p to 32sp	Haslemere Est. 7p to 18sp		
Imperial 16p to 30sp	Howard & Wynd 1p to 12p		
Unifood 10p to 24sp			

The Times index: 168.25-0.02
The FT index: 410.4-0.3

THE POUND

Bank buys	Bank sells	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia S 1.61	1.56	Belgium Fr 65.00	62.00
Austria Sch 30.50	28.50	Canada \$ 1.83	1.78
Denmark Kr 16.98	16.50	France Fr 8.76	8.44
Germany Dm 4.26	4.04	Greece Dr 65.50	63.00
Hongkong \$ 8.20	7.75	Italy L 1570.00	1510.00
Japan Y 510.00	485.00	Netherlands Gld 4.44	4.22
Norway Kr 9.30	8.95	Portugal Esc 72.00	64.00
Switzerland Fr 4.57	4.35	Spain Pes 133.25	121.50
Sweden Kr 7.51	7.16	Switzerland Fr 4.57	4.35
US \$ 1.75	1.70	Yugoslavia Dnr 34.25	32.25

Bland Payne report:

£207,000,000 generated from overseas by our UK Companies in 1976

Group profit £15.2m (up from £8.6m)
Group premium income £416m (up from £274m)

Bland Payne Holdings Limited
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British companies begin long-delayed push into American motor industry heartland

Lucas and GKN seek manufacturing bases in the US

From Clifford Webb
Detroit, March 1

Two of Britain's largest and most successful component manufacturers — Lucas and GKN, Keen & Nettelfolds — are looking for American companies to buy as manufacturing bases for a long-delayed push into the heartland of the United States motor industry.

Similar moves have been hinted at in the past, but denied because they conflicted with the low profile policy adopted by both groups in Detroit.

First priority had to be in-depth coverage of the much closer European Community markets. With this well on target, Lucas and GKN are now ready to abandon their "soft" approach and risk the inevitable

reaction from American component companies defending positions in the world's biggest motor market.

Mr E. E. "Bunny" Wootten, newly-appointed president of Lucas Industries North America, told a press conference at the Society of Automotive Engineers' congress and exposition in Detroit: "My brief is uncomplicated and unequivocal. I am required to build up Lucas sales in North America to something in the order of half a billion dollars (nearly £300m) a year by early 1980 — a tenfold increase.

"There is no question of our trying to take over your United States companies in their own backyard with high volume standard equipment for autos but there are other areas where we can be very competitive and innovative.

"We are looking for closer involvement with some United States manufacturers of components and systems and I would expect mergers or acquisitions or partnerships, as appropriate, to broaden our overall position."

He identified diesel injection equipment as having the biggest potential. Many of the American journalists present were clearly surprised to learn that Lucas's subsidiary, CAV, is the largest manufacturer of diesel injection equipment in the world.

Mr Wootten said that if American engine builders sought greater supply assurance Lucas would be willing to manufacture in the United States. America has been much slower than Europe to take advantage of the economical diesel engine. But Dr B. A. Jarrett,

CAV's technical director, said discussions with American truck manufacturers and operators suggested that at least one in five of new medium trucks would be fitted with diesels by 1980 — about 60,000 units a year.

In addition, major car manufacturers were working on diesel engine designs for standard cars. Even 2 per cent use of diesels instead of petrol engines could result in a market for 150,000 diesels a year.

Lucas are building a new headquarters at Troy on the outskirts of Detroit. Lucas group chairman, Mr Bernard Scott, said while visiting the headquarters today: "We are determined to mount a major effort to secure the appropriate penetration for our various companies."

GKN's main hopes rest on their world leadership in con-

stant velocity joints—a must for modern front-wheel-drive cars. They point out that with the exception of Citroën and a few General Motors low volume cars every other front-wheel-drive car in the world used a constant velocity joint built or licensed by GKN.

A large contract for these joints has already been won for a new Chrysler car. Reliable sources believe it could be worth up to £15m a year. It will double GKN's total United States sales.

The British contingent of 24 component companies is easily the largest foreign participation in what is widely regarded as the world's most important original equipment show. Before it ends on March 3 some 30,000 senior engineers and purchasing executives from all over the world will have visited it.

Fiat firmly rejects pay demands by unions

By Barth Healey
Milan, March 1

Fiat, Italy's largest single employer, is firmly rejecting union demands for higher salaries, using as "protection" a recent presidential decree designed to limit rapid rises in labour costs.

This has shifted current labour talks from salary demands to pleas for increased investment and employment, "where we are the only major company in a position to satisfy the unions", according to a Fiat labour official.

Despite initial fears that the decree might interfere in the much-valued "autonomy of management" at Fiat and other companies, "with our financial position, we are freer than ever", the official said.

What happens at Fiat happens throughout Italian industry, the country's post-war economic history has proved. There is a chance that the decree, which is dated February 7 and must be ratified by parliament within 60 days, will be greatly watered down.

As the unions and the political parties to the left of centre — mainly the Communists and the Socialists — have sensed Fiat's firmness in current labour talks, their pleas for a weaker decree have heightened.

The main effect of the political bickering has been to halt the Fiat talks, which are designed to implement and extend the national metalworkers' contract of last year, pending clarification of the fate of the decree.

Under the Government plan, companies would be relieved of 1,400,000 lire (about £25m) in social security charges over the next year, with the bill being picked up by the Government and financed by higher sales taxes.

The main point of contention is Article 3, which says that any company giving salary or other cash benefits above those stipulated in national contracts would lose the savings in social security charges and would have to pay taxes on the higher benefits given — AP-Dow Jones.

Investment is the key to productivity, Lord Ryder asserts



Lord Ryder at the Leyland wheel: trying out the new Rover.

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

Faster and more efficient production would not regenerate British industry if it were not accompanied by investment to ensure the highest standards of design, Lord Ryder, chairman and chief executive of the National Enterprise Board, said in London last night.

Opening a Quality by Design exhibition at the Design Centre, Lord Ryder said: "We do in fact make many excellent products in Britain, but we don't produce enough of them and in some cases we don't make them fast enough."

"Our productivity is still too low, which is one of the reasons why we need to step up our investment in new plant and equipment—a task which the NEB has been set up to put its weight behind."

Every manufacturer should include among his aims an objective the need to achieve the highest standards of quality and reliability, Lord Ryder said. The NEB, when deciding whether to back a company, would always wish to approve its commercial prospects in the fullest possible sense.

"It is not simply a question of looking at balance sheets and profit forecasts: it is also a case of satisfying ourselves that the company has the right products and the right resources, as well as financial—deliver them on time, at a right price and with the quality that the customer expects."

Good design was of key importance to the future of British industry, and therefore to the long-term economic performance of the nation, Lord Ryder said.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

Esso Overseas Finance N.V.

8% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of March 15, 1971 providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$6,000,000 principal amount bearing the following serial numbers have been selected for redemption on March 15, 1977 (\$3,000,000 principal amount

through operation of the mandatory Sinking Fund and \$3,000,000 principal amount through operation of the optional Sinking Fund) at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date:

DEBENTURES OF \$1,000 EACH

2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	2983	2984	2985	2986	2987	2988	2989	2990	2991	2992	2993	2994	2995	2996	2997	2998	2999	3000	3001	3002	3003	3004	3005	3006	3007	3008	3009	3010	3011	3012	3013	3014	3015	3016	3017	3018	3019	3020	3021	3022	3023	3024	3025	3026	3027	3028	3029	3030	3031	3032	3033	3034	3035	3036	3037	3038	3039	3040	3041	3042	3043	3044	3045	3046	3047	3048	3049	3050	3051	3052	3053	3054	3055	3056	3057	3058	3059	3060	3061	3062	3063	3064	3065	3066	3067	3068	3069	3070	3071	3072	3073	3074	3075	3076	3077	3078	3079	3080	3081	3082	3083	3084	3085	3086	3087	3088	3089	3090	3091	3092	3093	3094	3095	3096	3097	3098	3099	3100	3101	3102	3103	3104	3105	3106	3107	3108	3109	3110	3111	3112	3113	3114	3115	3116	3117	3118	3119	3120	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Qatar minister seeks formula to end two-tier oil pricing

Vienna, March 1.—Abdul Aziz Al-Thani, the Qatar Oil Minister, told reporters today that he would continue his efforts to achieve a compromise that would do away with the present two-tier price system for oil in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

He said, confirming his role as price mediator, he would leave Vienna to visit several Opec countries in the search for a compromise formula, but decided to name the countries. A compromise, he said, would be somewhere between the 15 per cent price boost decided by 11 of the 13 Opec members last December and the 5 per cent boost of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The minister said the two-tier price system should not be overruled, but called it "a bit funny, though... a cloud that will pass away".

In reply to a question, he expressed the hope that this

would happen before the next session of the Opec oil ministers in Stockholm on July 12.

The minister, who is also his country's Finance Minister, was here for a meeting of Opec finance ministers to discuss aid for developing countries.

He said one compromise possibility could be that the second price rise would be delayed.

However, this would require agreement on a price compromise before the Stockholm meeting. Otherwise the new boost would be implemented as scheduled.

He said that in the event of a price compromise before the meeting, a special oil session would have to be held to vote on the compromise.

There were no plans at present for such a session. "We have nothing to say to each other at this time," he added.

—AP-Dow Jones.

Carpet restructuring may mean 20 pc fewer jobs

By Peter Hill, Industrial Correspondent

Forecasters made yesterday that up to 20 per cent of Britain's carpet industry labour force could lose their jobs as a result of restructuring over the next few years.

Mr Robyn Grant, managing director of Heuga-UK, said in London yesterday that the carpet industry had not yet adjusted from two decades of market growth to the current static situation. Profits of carpet manufacturing companies had fallen from an average return on capital of 20 per cent to 8 per cent in 1975 and below that last year without any improvement in export performance last

year profits would have been worse still.

On the other hand, profitable carpet retailers groups were engaged in heavy promotional expenditure and were driving the industry into supplying heavily priced unbranded products.

This, he suggested, was likely to lead to a restructuring into larger units with a likely reduction in the labour force of about 20 per cent.

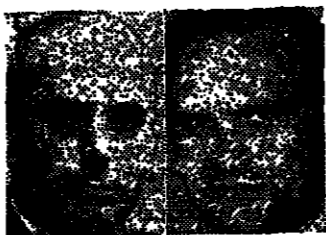
Mr Grant suggested that the Government might be persuaded to assist as part of its industrial strategy if the industry itself showed that it was prepared to tackle the problems. A tax credit system associated with increased sales and productivity might be a good investment.

Business appointments

Hawker Siddeley board changes

Mr B. R. Bensly and Mr T. W. B. Salitt have been made directors of Hawker Siddeley Group from March 1. Mr C. D. MacQuaide will retire from the board on June 22, having reached retiring age.

Other changes are: From March 1, Mr B. R. Bensly is to be chairman of Mirreco Blackstone while continuing as managing director. From June 1 he will be the group director responsible for Hawker de Havilland Australia, HDB Holdings, Hawker Siddeley Brush and Koyes Bros. Mr T. W. B. Salitt becomes chairman of Hawker Siddeley Dynamics Engineering and Hawker Siddeley Water Engineering from April 1 and continues to have responsibility for Hawker Siddeley's switchgear and transformer companies and Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering. Mr F. B. Wood, a Hawker Siddeley Group director, has become vice-chairman of Hawker Siddeley Canada. He continues to be responsible for R. A. Lister & Co and Peter Sir John Aldbury, vice-chairman and deputy managing director of Hawker Siddeley Group, is now chairman of Brush Electrical Engineering Co. and continues group responsibilities for Hawker Siddeley Aviation, Hawker Siddeley Dynamics and High Duty Alloys.



Mr B. R. Bensly (left) and Mr T. W. B. Salitt who have joined the main Hawker Siddeley board. Mr Bensly will be director responsible for the group's Australian companies from June 1, and Mr Salitt becomes chairman of HS Dynamics Engineering and HS Water Engineering from April 1.

Mr A. J. Laurence, Hawker Siddeley Group finance director, is now chairman of Hawker Siddeley Electric Export. Mr J. K. Colley becomes chairman of Gloster Sarokelvin Construction Co and Sara Products from April 1, 1977. He becomes chairman of Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies Pty (Pernu, Australia) from March 1, 1977, and joins the board of Bunning Timber Holdings (Pernu, Australia) from April 1, 1977. He is head of Hawker Siddeley Group's central services. From March 1, 1977, Mr C. A. Fraser becomes chairman of F. W. Brackett & Co and continues as managing director of Hawker Siddeley Water Engineering. Mr C. White, secretary of Hawker Siddeley Group, joins the boards of Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering and Hawker Siddeley Water Engineering from April 1, 1977. Mr E. G. Shoosmith has become managing director of R. A. Lister Power Plant.

Mr Roger Macey has been made a director of P. S. Moss & Partners and Mr Philip Hancock becomes an assistant director.

Mr Alan Marsh and Mr Geoffrey Walther have been appointed to the board of H. Clarkson and Co.

Mr C. A. Fraser is to be appointed chairman of the process plant contracting group of Simon Engineering in succession to Mr J. E. Chick who is retiring at the end of July, 1977. It is the board's intention that Mr Lomborg will become a director of Simon Engineering Ltd at that time. Mr M. Hamshaw will succeed Mr Lomborg as managing director of Sin-Chem with effect from March 1, 1977.

Mr Norman Miller, assistant manager and secretary, has been made a director of Carlot Investment Trust and The Tyneside Investment Trust.

Mr Louis Heyman, managing director of Leopold Joseph and Sons, has been made a non-executive director of the Fairway Company. Mr R. C. Gregory, the company's financial manager, has become financial director.

Mr J. W. Harper has been made group managing director and chief executive of Bernard Wardle.

Mr D. V. Weyer and Mr C. H. W. Trew have joined the board of Barclays Bank International.

Mr Tony Peers has gone on to the board of Babcock & Wilcox Management as director of Industrial Relations.

Mr C. A. Fraser is to become a director of the Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society.

Mr Martin Shogquist has been made a director and general manager of L. R. Porter and Mr Richard Smith has become financial director.

Unilever in 1976

The Directors of Unilever announce the Companies' provisional results for the fourth quarter and for the year 1976, and their ordinary dividend proposals. The results are subject to completion of the consolidated accounts and audit.

Exchange Rates

As has been our practice throughout the year the results for the fourth quarter and the comparative figures for 1976 have been calculated at comparable rates of exchange being based on £1=Fl. 5.43=US\$ 2.02, which were the closing rates for 1975. Profit attributable to ordinary capital for the fourth quarter 1976 has also been recalculated at the closing rates for 1976 being based on £1=Fl. 4.18=US\$ 1.70 which will be used for the Annual Accounts 1976.

The results and earnings per share for the full year 1976 have been calculated at the closing rates for 1976. The 1975 figures for the full year are based on the closing rates for 1975. The trends are therefore influenced by the changes in exchange rates during the year. For comparison purposes the trends have also been shown based on comparable rates of exchange.

Combined Results (£ millions)

Fourth Quarter 1976 1975 Increase

2,016	1,798	12%
971	771	
1,045	1,027	

126.5	117.4	8%
(1.3)	(6.8)	
1.2	2.2	
(5.6)	(4.0)	

(9.2)	(8.2)	
3.6	4.2	

120.8	109.0	11%
(61.7)	(52.8)	
7.5	4.4	
(5.4)	(6.2)	

(4.6)	(5.4)	
(0.8)	(0.8)	

61.2	53.4	14%
6.2		
67.4	53.4	26%
46.1	28.0	
21.3	27.4	

18.15p	14.27p	28%
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18.15p	14.27p	28%
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SALES TO THIRD PARTIES—Combined

8,726	6,780	29%
3,767	2,876	
4,959	3,884	

OPERATING PROFIT

639.5	365.8	75%
(12.1)	(12.3)	
6.0	6.6	
(27.3)	(32.1)	

PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION

605.1	328.0	84%
(292.2)	(167.5)	
6.3	4.8	
(37.5)	(23.3)	

PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY CAPITAL

281.7	142.0	98%
137.6	83.4	
144.1	58.6	

Dividends on ordinary and deferred capital

(94.4)	(86.7)	
(30.4)	(21.8)	
(64.0)	(45.1)	

Profit of the year retained

187.3	75.3	
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Earnings per 25p of capital

75.84p	38.23p	98%
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Results—Fourth Quarter

In comparison with the very good 1975 fourth quarter sales were up by 12 per cent, more than half of which arose from higher volume.

For the quarter, profits in Europe other than the United Kingdom were below those of the corresponding quarter of 1975. Oil milling results were disappointing due to unsettled conditions in the meal market. The cost of introducing new products was a cause of lower profits in detergents in several countries. Sundry foods, animal feeds and the industrial groups continued to improve.

Outside Europe, sales and profits were generally good. UAC International also did well.

The Year

For the year as a whole sales increased by 14 per cent at comparable rates of exchange with volume accounting for 8 per cent.

As a result of the fall of sterling during the year the increase in sales and profits is much higher when expressed at 1976 closing rates of exchange.

In Europe there was a major improvement in most product groups as compared with the poor results in 1975. However, margins in general are still too low. Results in edible fats and other foods, chemicals, paper, plastics and packaging and animal feeds showed a marked recovery. Frozen foods and ice cream again did well. Our toilet preparations businesses showed further growth. Our two major meat companies continued to make operating losses. These were increased by heavy costs of restructuring in the United Kingdom.

In North America results were generally satisfactory. In most other countries outside Europe there was further sales and profits growth. UAC International contributed substantially to the higher 1976 results.

Dividends

The Boards today resolved to recommend to the Annual

General Meetings to be held on 11th May, 1977 the declaration of final dividends in respect of 1976 on the Ordinary capitals at the following rates, which are equivalent in value at today's rate of exchange in terms of the Equalisation Agreement between the two companies:—

LIMITED 11.78 pence per original 25 pence Ordinary share (1975: 8.43 pence), bringing the total of LIMITED's dividend declarations for 1976 to 19.24 pence per share (1975: 13.67 pence).

N.V. Fl. 5.16 per Fl. 20 Ordinary capital (1975: Fl. 4.72) bringing the total of N.V.'s dividend for 1976 to Fl. 8.36 per Fl. 20 Ordinary capital (1975: Fl. 7.65).

The N.V. final dividend will be paid on 23rd May, 1977.

Because of the fall since last year in the sterling/guilder exchange rate, LIMITED will be obliged under the Equalisation Agreement to increase its total dividend declarations for 1976 by an amount which exceeds the statutory limit of 10 per cent currently in force for United Kingdom companies. As before the Treasury have agreed to such declarations by LIMITED, subject to the condition that the total amount paid to shareholders by way of dividends for 1976 is kept within the statutory limit and payment of the balance of 1976 dividends is postponed.

It is therefore again proposed to make the final dividend of LIMITED payable by instalments. The first instalment of 7.01 pence per share would be paid on 23rd May, 1977 to shareholders registered in the books of the Company on 29th April, 1977. This payment would bring LIMITED's dividend payments for 1976 up to 11.19 pence per share which is within the statutory limit. The balance of LIMITED's 1976 final dividend which together with the deferred balance of earlier dividends would amount in total to 17.53 pence per share, would be paid when circumstances permit to holders of Ordinary capital now in issue registered at the time of payment.

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Shareholders are reminded that for the purpose of equalising dividends under the Equalisation Agreement the United Kingdom Advance Corporation Tax in respect of any dividend paid by LIMITED has to be treated as part of the dividend. If the rate of United Kingdom Advance Corporation Tax is changed from the current rate of thirty-five pence per pound before payment of this dividend has been completed, the figures now announced will be adjusted accordingly and a further announcement made.

The Report and Accounts for 1976 will be published on 20th April, 1977. This and future announcements of Unilever Quarterly Results will be printed in leaflet form. If you wish to be included in the mailing list for these leaflets please write to: Information Division, Unilever House, London EC4P 4BQ.

1st March, 1977

TO: A E Stockholders

You are reminded of the informal meeting arranged for London to give you the opportunity of raising questions with your Board regarding the proposed acquisition of Serck Ltd. A further meeting has now been arranged for Edinburgh. The meetings will be held in London at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, at 12 noon on the 3rd March and in Edinburgh at The Post House, Corstorphine Road, at 12 noon on the 9th March.

Associated Engineering Limited



The Directors of AE have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and the opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and all Directors jointly and severally accept responsibility accordingly.

This advertisement has been placed by Associated Engineering Limited.

EDINBURGH AMERICAN ASSETS TRUST LIMITED

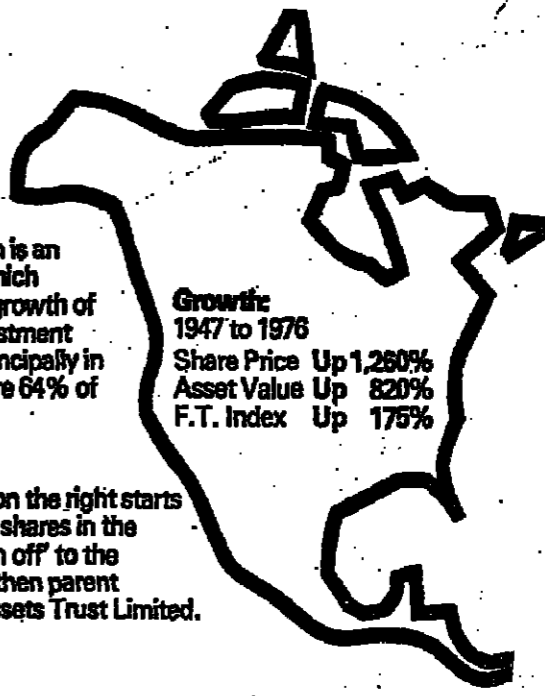
Policy: Edinburgh American is an Investment Trust which pursues a policy of growth of capital through investment mainly overseas, principally in North America where 64% of assets are held.

Record: The growth shown on the right starts from 1947 when the shares in the company were 'spun off' to the shareholders of the then parent company, British Assets Trust Limited.

	31st Dec 1976	31st Dec 1975
Total Assets	£31.1m.	£24.6m.
Net Assets	£22.1m.	£16.6m.
Equivalent per share to	110p	85p
Earned per ordinary share	1.18p	0.92p
Proposed Annual Dividend	0.90p	0.75p



Copies of the Report are available from: Ivory & Stone Limited, Investment Managers, 1 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DZ.



Montedison's future reassessed after resignations of top men

From John Earle
Rome, March 1

The future of Montedison, Italy's biggest chemical company, was being reassessed today after the resignations of its managing director, joint managing director, and joint managing director.

The resignations were notified to a board meeting yesterday in Milan, which made known a 1976 loss for the parent company of 60,600m lire (about 34m), following one in 1975 of 72,600m lire.

The board also announced a forthcoming capital increase from 435,000m lire to 838,020m lire, through a nine-for-10 rights issue to be effected in stages under modalities yet to be made clear.

The company announced that Signor Corsi would continue to act as a consultant for the group, but gave no reason for Signor Albanese's resignation. Recently there have been rumours of dissensions in the

top management, which last night's statement did little to resolve.

One rumour was that Signor Eugenio Cefis, the chairman, intended to sell the group's financial subsidiaries (Finger, Banco Lariano, Italia Assicurazioni) to undisclosed interests to provide cash for the capital-hungry group, and that Signor Corsi was leaving the Montedison parent to remain head of these subsidiaries.

This plan was stated to have met opposition from Signor Giuseppe Ratti, joint managing director responsible for foreign operations, backed by the important shareholding of ENI. A statement after the board meeting confirmed that a plan of this nature is under study, but made clear that no decision had been taken.

Montedison's need for capital has been accentuated by the news that a clause in a proposed industrial reconversion bill, designed to provide it with facilities to raise about 600,000m lire (£400m), is unlikely to be approved by parliament.



Signor Giorgio Corsi: responsible for Montedison's finances.

West Germany's steel sector running gradually into state of crisis

Bonn, March 1.—The West German steel sector appears to be sinking gradually into a state of crisis, and is sucking people for the first time in a decade.

In the Saar, some 900 workers at Neunkirchener Eisenwerke will lose their jobs by June, and the first 21 have already received notice.

During January, one fifth of the sector's 324,000 workers were hit by short-time and the proportion rose to one quarter in February.

Yesterday Mannesmann announced a suspension of output at its subsidiaries Mannesmann Roehrenwerke and Kammerich Reisholz.

Some 1,800 staff are affected but, according to the management, there is a good chance that most of them will be switched to other group factories, thanks to early retirement of other personnel and natural departures.

In the past 30 months the industry has gone from its best year ever to a situation that some steel people believe is even more dangerous than in the 1930s.

In 1974 output of crude steel came to 53,200,000 tons, and this was followed by 40,400,000

tons in 1975, then by a slight rise to 42,000,000 tons.

The recession is attributed to sluggish activity in the building, capital equipment and ship-building sectors.

Industry officials also point to "low cost imports from countries like Japan, Spain and Brazil". In addition, these countries are taking over West Germany's traditional international markets. West German exports have fallen from 11,700,000 tons in 1974 to seven million tons last year.

Managements in the steel industry here are extremely worried. Their production costs are among the highest in the world. Hourly wages, for example, are next highest to those of the United States.

Top executives also note that West German steel firms are obliged to buy coal at twice the price of that available to their chief rivals abroad. As a consequence of the way the coal business is run here, this raw material costs twice the amount paid by American firms.

In general, steel leaders hope for a recovery in the early 1980s, but they are loath to estimate how many firms will have gone to the wall by then.—Agence France Presse.

Anomaly in DLT deters builders

By Our Estates Correspondent.

Some developers are being deterred from starting construction projects because it appears that they cannot pre-lease the resulting building without becoming liable to a heavy bill for Development Land Tax.

The anomaly is pointed out by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, who says that an identical building leased after development has begun would normally attract little, if any, DLT.

The institution, in a letter to the Inland Revenue, points out that entering into an agreement before construction begins, to lease space in a building after its completion, is often essential if the developer is to obtain finance to cover building costs.

The anomaly could therefore result in many important and useful projects being needlessly abandoned.

The problem arose from an interpretation of the Act by the central DLT office, and the institution hoped that it could be overcome by an administrative decision. If not, it would propose that the Government amend it.

A spokesman for the institution explained that agreements for leases are regarded as land disposals which can attract DLT.

Clydeside yard given £5m government aid to save tanker order

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Scott Lithgow, the lower Clyde shipbuilding group, is being given a £5m government grant to cover construction costs of a large oil tanker sold to the Niarcho group, thus removing the threat of redundancy among 3,000 of the company's workers.

The grant is expected to be drawn from the recently created £65m shipbuilding intervention fund.

The order for the ship, a 250,000-ton deadweight tanker, was originally placed with the company by Maritime Fruit Carriers, which encountered severe difficulties last year leading to the sale of most of its ships and cancellation of many orders held by United Kingdom yards.

It is one of two sister ships. The first was bought by the Niarcho group last December after the Government's decision to order the Bank of Scotland to take over the first ship when MFC defaulted on progress payments.

The future of the second ship has been in doubt since MFC's difficulties emerged, and the company suspended all work on the vessel until MFC's future was resolved. At the same time it has been involved in intensive lobbying of the Department of Industry in an attempt to secure some arrangement for the construction of the ship.

Mr Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, told the Commons yesterday that the ship had been bought by Dexter Shipping, a subsidiary

of the Niarcho group, and that the Government would provide £5m to enable the company to complete the ship.

"I regard the securing of this order as most satisfactory, both in its own right, and because it points the way to what might be achieved by the operation of the intervention fund," he said.

The £5m was apparently taken into account when the decision was taken on the size of the intervention fund.

Mr A. Ross Belch, Scott Lithgow's managing director, said the company would be making the substantial contribution to the difference between the selling price and the building cost.

The two ships were ordered originally by specially-created subsidiaries of Scott Lithgow to take advantage of now-discontinued investment grants. At that time the cost of the ship was between £21m and £23m. Subsequently the companies and the ships were sold to MFC and the building price was about £24m on the second ship.

Market sources indicated that the cash sale to Niarcho would involve £16m to £17m, with the government grant and Scott Lithgow making up the balance to the original £21m to £23m.

Oman order: Brooke Marine of Lowestoft, Suffolk, has been awarded a contract for the design and construction of a special-purpose ship for the navy of the Sultanate of Oman. It has also received a letter of intent for the placing of a further order for major refits to three fast patrol craft.

Corporation tax boosts Inland Revenue receipts

By Our Financial Staff

Inland Revenue receipts rose a fifth in January compared with the comparable month of 1976, leaving the cumulative total of receipts so far this financial year 15 per cent up at £17,275m in 1975/76.

Last month's rise largely reflected a sharp increase in the yield from corporation tax. This was 51 per cent up on January 1976, at £1,113m.

The February edition of Financial Statistics also confirms that there was a substantial increase in the holdings of liquid assets of insurance companies and private sector pension funds in the third quarter of 1976. This occurred at a time when there was a reaction in the stock market and a lull

in the Government's funding programme.

The figures show an increase in the short-term assets of insurance companies of £297m during the period (against a decrease of £37m in the previous quarter) and net investment of only £34m in equities against £350m in gilts—both figures being below the comparable figures for the previous quarter.

The figures for private pension funds show an increase in their short-term assets of £69m to £632m. At the same time, however, they were much heavier net buyers of gilts during the quarter than public sector pension funds (£111m against £32m) and much smaller net purchasers of company securities (£54m against £117m).

Dutch rules for BP plant 'impossible'

Rotterdam, March 1.—British Petroleum said today that the conditions made by south Holland provincial authorities for a permit to build a new cracker plant in Rotterdam are unacceptable.

The authorities said they had decided in principle to give BP Raffinaderij Nederland a permit under the air pollution and public nuisance Acts to build facilities at its Europoort refinery site in Rotterdam.

But a BP spokesman said it was technically and financially impossible to meet the authorities' demands as they stood, especially on sulphur dioxide waste pollution.—Reuter.

Britain receives £66m in N Sea oil royalties

Britain has received its first oil production royalties. In a Commons written reply yesterday, Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said that production royalties for the calendar year 1976 totalled £66.6m.

He told Mr James Dempsey, Labour member for Conisburgh and Airdrie, that of this sum £22.4m was attributable to gas production and £44.2m to oil extraction. The figures are provisional.

Although oil has been in production from North Sea fields since June, 1975, it was only in the second half of last year that substantial royalties became payable as production increased.

TUC plea on Drax B

Ministers yesterday told a delegation from the TUC's fuel and power industries committee that they would consider the TUC plea for an early decision on Drax B power station.

The undertaking was given during a one-hour meeting between the TUC team and Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy. Mr Eric Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, also was present. The ministers stressed that they were aware of the urgency of the situation.

Travel training levy

Permission has been given to the Air Transport and Travel Industry Training Board by Mr Booth, the Secretary of State for Employment, to levy employers for 1 per cent of their payroll for the year ending April 5, 1976. The levy will be used to finance the board's training programme. Employers with fewer than 16 people on their payroll are exempt from the order, which comes into effect on April 1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why Britain must press for a satisfactory EEC farm policy

From Mr Sham Stewart

Sir, It is disturbing that Mr David Blake should write an article (February 16) on the United Kingdom's defence of the present parity of the "green pound" without mentioning that the European Unit of Account (EUA) ought to have been used instead of the Agricultural Unit of Account (AUA) for calculating the value of the green currencies when the United Kingdom and other EEC countries left the monetary "snake"; that, because the countries which left all devalued, the AUA is now 19 per cent higher than the EUA; and that United Kingdom agricultural prices are in fact much closer to the EUA price than those of Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark—12.6 per cent below compared to, respectively, 29.7 per cent, 21.1 per cent, 19.6 per cent and 19.3 per cent above.

An increase of 19 per cent in the level of agricultural prices would aggravate the problem of surpluses by reducing demand and increasing supply. The countries whose prices are above the EUA level should be required to reduce them before others make any move at all. This would incidentally help correct the present imbalance of trade within the EEC.

An increase of 19 per cent in the level of protection against third countries would also invite retaliation against EEC exports of manufactures. Where in any case is the authority for the present

arrangement? Article 39(3) prohibits any discrimination between producers or consumers within the Community and requires farm prices to be set at a level to ensure both the rational development of agricultural production and supplies to consumers at reasonable prices.

Would the courts not say that the tax on, eg, British exports of beef to Germany, is discriminatory and that the agriculture ministers in sticking to the AUA as a datum line had in any case misdirected themselves as to what the common price should be? Or is there no rule of law in the EEC?

The value of the green mark has risen only 5 per cent since 1970 although the real mark has risen 36 per cent. No German government will close this gap by reducing farm prices by 23 per cent to the EUA level.

The obvious solution is to forget the pipe-dream of a common market in agricultural products. Each country should pay for its own agricultural protection and those who want a higher price this year can make a start by providing the extra money themselves.

Most of the EEC budget is spent on agriculture, and although it is true as Mr Blake says that our contribution would be substantially higher if the market rate of exchange were to be substituted for the 1971 rate of \$2.40, it is also true that our share of the total is already much higher than our

share of the EEC's gross national product and that by 1980 it will be nearly twice as much.

Our food, drink and tobacco is already costing us at least £1,500m more than it would outside the EEC. The net cost in foreign exchanges is about £1,100m, including revenue from customs duties on agricultural products. The corresponding figures next year will be £2,100m and £1,500m at current prices. If the green pound were abolished the 1976 figures would rise to £3,300m and £2,100m.

Why have the public not been told the truth about the common agricultural policy and why in particular have the Government not had the courage to denounce the impediment of the Commission in putting forward proposals which would require us to make by far the greatest contribution towards narrowing the differentials which exist? Have ministers in fact been told what is really implied in these proposals? It seems not.

There will be no reform unless and until price increases are vetoed. Mr Sillan must tell his colleagues that we are prepared to pay a penny more until we get a satisfactory alternative.

Yours faithfully,
SHAUN STEWART,
The Old House,
Willards Hill,
Egham,
East Sussex TN19 7DB.
February 21.

Freight rates on the railways

From Mr Michael Barclay

Sir, Mr Richard Hope argued in *The Times* on February 22, that British Rail must put its house in order before Whitehall will give Mr Parker the investment he demands to prevent the railways freezing to death. But British Rail do not even take advantage of the investment they are being offered by private industry today.

In France 38 per cent of the freight wagon fleet is privately owned; in Switzerland 28 per cent, in Germany 16 per cent, in Italy 13 per cent, but on British railways only 8 per cent of the wagons are in private ownership.

The other European railways offer good discounts on freight rates to firms providing their own wagons and this encourages the building of modern wagons capable of fast and reliable running. But British Rail offers little or no such rebate to present or potential users,

who have the choice between British Rail's own outdated stock (quite rightly reborn by Mr Parker) or using the roads. Meanwhile the wagon building industry languishes with empty order books. British Rail should give every encouragement to private industry, ready and waiting to invest in new railway equipment so that Mr Parker can at least keep the customers he has today. DoE grants towards construction costs are indeed welcome but British Rail must play its part by giving the incentive of preferential freight rates or the new freight wagons needed to modernize British Rail will never be built.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BARCLAY,
Chairman,
Association of Private Railway-Wagon Owners Limited,
18 Great Marlborough Street,
London W1V 2NJ.
February 23.

Participation in industry

From Mr John Marks

Sir, The way in which the CBI and other bodies have coalesced to oppose the Bullock report must have surprised even them, and may have caused the Government to realize the unreality of thinking the majority report is a basis for meaningful progress.

Everyone feels something must be done, but with the two sides so successfully entrenched what can be done to form a bridge for progress?

I, and I fear many other people, did not read the British Institute of Management's report on employee participation (the Cotton report) when it was originally published in March, 1975, it has since been reprinted thrice.

The calibre of managers who worked on that report is such

that no element of union or capital bashing appears. It is a very sensible, practical report and suggests participation is most important on the shop floor, that any legislation should be enabling, and that the point of participation is to enrich people's jobs and to increase the effectiveness of enterprises.

Very many people across the country would heartily endorse these objectives.

Let us use the Cotton report as the bridge we need to produce progress from the present glowering stalemate.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MARKS,
Chairman,
Trebort Sharps Ltd,
Trebort House,
Woodford Green,
Essex IG8 8EX.
February 25.

Understanding the workings of education

From Dr and Mrs Roger Henson

Sir, The comments from training managers and factory trainers in Newcastle ("Mrs Williams finds food for thought in education debate", February 19) could be taken more seriously if the first item did not show such lack of knowledge of school level qualifications.

School certificate was taken in selective grammar schools by about 10 per cent of the 16-year-old pupils. It was replaced in 1951, more than 20 years ago, by the General Certificate of Education. Until the raising of the school leaving age approximately 15 per cent of school leavers had three or more GCE "O" levels; this has now increased to about 26 per cent.

The Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) examination was introduced as an achievement test for those unlikely to reach GCE standard. Both CSE and GCE have a range of grades, and any employer who recruits an applicant having four or five CSE's without checking whether the grades indicate a high or low standard deserves all the problems he gets. Would he order steel for a high quality job without specifying the grade?

Perhaps there should be more visits from industry to schools and colleges to see what education provides.

Yours faithfully,
DR R. M. HENSON,
Head of Department of Science,
Harrogate College of Further Education.
MRS A. M. HENSON,
2 Westcliffe Grove,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire.

The last five years have been uphill all the way

But it's been worth it. Every year for the last 5 years, our pre-tax profits, earnings and sales have achieved new records. Since 1971, our sales have increased by nearly 325%, our earnings by nearly 500% and our pre-tax profits by nearly 600%.

These figures haven't just happened—they're the proof of our positive corporate philosophy. Accountability decentralized; international expansion; diversification; eliminating unnecessary risk and maximizing opportunities. Its been a successful formula judging by our record.

We'll probably find the next five years uphill going too. But we don't mind. To us it's success.

BTR Limited,
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London SW1. Tel: 01-834 3848.



The Cardinal Investment Trust Limited

Extracts from the Report and Accounts and the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. R. H. Wethered.

The year in brief	1976	1975
Total revenue	£986,640	£882,605
Revenue before taxation	£612,157	£557,366
Dividends on deferred capital	3.30p	3.00p
Balance to revenue reserve	£23,749	£23,633
Valuation of investments	£16,303,680	£16,040,014
Invested in equities	92.89%	89.92%
Invested in Great Britain (excluding freehold property)	51.99%	58.10%
Invested in overseas companies	48.01%	41.90%
Net asset value per share	122p	119.50p
Net asset value of £100 of convertible loan stock	£98.66	£96.59

Dividends:

An increased final dividend of 2.13p per share is recommended making a total of 3.30p for the year against 3.00p (as adjusted in respect of the one for two capitalisation issue in August 1976) for 1975.

Assets:

The net asset value of the deferred shares increased by 2.09% against a fall of 3.87% in the F.T.-Actuaries All-Share Index. Despite this, the discount on assets, as judged by the market price of the shares, rose from 27% to 40%.

North Sea Investments:

A sum approaching £1,000,000 is at present invested in non-income producing equities largely connected with the North Sea and particularly the Ninian Field.



General Investors and Trustees Ltd.
F. & C. Eurotrust Ltd.
Century Fund S.A.

The Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust Co. Ltd.

The Cardinal Investment Trust Ltd.
Alliance Investment Co. Ltd.
Foreign and National Investment Fund

1/2 Laurence Courtney Hill, London EC4R 0BA

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.



Property

SAVILLS

LONDON HOUSES

LONDON FLATS

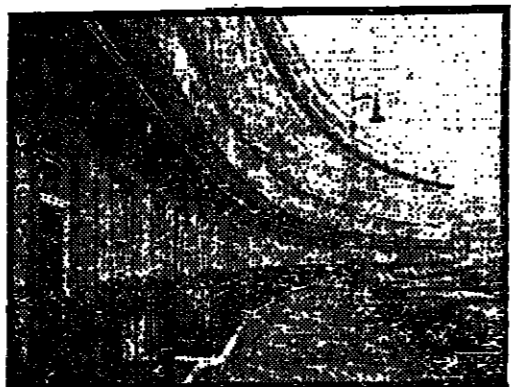
REGENCY TERRACE, ELM PLACE, S.W.7.
A compact easily run modern house, approached by a raised terrace from Elm Place & Seelwood Terrace, and is ideally situated for the excellent shopping and transport facilities of the Fulham Road. 3/4 Bedrooms, 1/2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, 2 Bathrooms, Cloakroom. Gas-fired C.H. 69 yrs. lease @ £100 per annum. £42,500.

EATON TERRACE, S.W.1. A charming period property in excellent decorative order with a delightful open outlook at the rear and the benefit of a garage. 4 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms, 2 Bathrooms, Cloakroom, Kitchen. Patio. Garage, gas-fired C.H. 29 yrs. lease @ £85 per annum. £45,000.

PEMBROKE ROAD, W.8. An attractive period family house with light, well proportioned rooms and in good decorative order. The property is well situated being close by Kensington High Street and benefits from a self-contained basement flat. 4 Bedrooms, 3 Reception Rooms, 2 Bathrooms, Kitchen. Self-contained basement flat of 2 Rooms, Kitchen and Bathroom. Gas C.H. Garden, Roof Terrace. Freehold £75,000. Joint Sole Agents: Knight, Frank Rutley, 20 Hanover Square, London W.1. 01-629 8171.

MARKHAM SQUARE, S.W.3. A well-modernised period property situated in the quiet north west corner of this prime residential square. The property has been well-maintained and is in good decorative order with the advantage of a self-contained basement flat. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms, 2 Bathrooms, Kitchen, Cloakroom. Self-contained basement flat of 2 Rooms, Kitchen and Bathroom. Gas C.H. Garden, Roof Terrace. Freehold £75,000. Joint Sole Agents: Knight, Frank Rutley, 20 Hanover Square, London W.1. 01-629 8171.

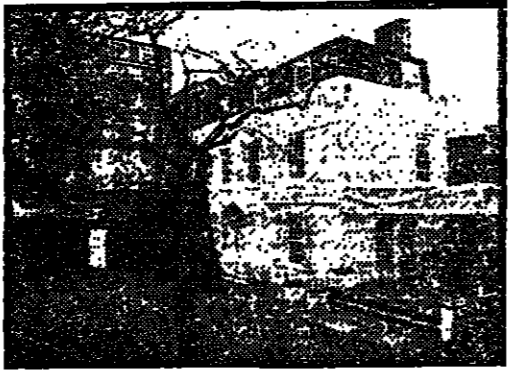
WILTON CRESCENT S.W.1.



A superb period house situated in one of Belgravia's prime residential areas. The property is in immaculate decorative order with first class fixtures and fittings, and benefits from the advantage of a new house at the rear in Kinnerton Street. Main House: 6 Bedrooms, Dressing Room, 3 Bathrooms, Drawing Room, Dining Room, Study, Kitchen, Cloakroom, Staff Accommodation, Lift. New House: 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C. 2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen.

Substantial price required for the Leasehold interest. Joint Sole Agents: Gordon Linch & Co., 10 Sedley Place, London W.1. Tel: 01-498 1441

SWAN WALK S.W.3.



A unique attractive double-fronted 18th century house with its own walled garden and a magnificent view over the Apothecary Gardens. The accommodation is unusually arranged, with the principal accommodation in Swan Walk, but additional accommodation in Royal Hospital Road, the two houses communicating at Basement and Second Floor levels.

4 Principal Bedrooms, 2 Secondary Bedrooms, 3 Reception Rooms and Sunroom, 3 Bathrooms, 2 Kitchens, Staff accommodation of Bed/Sitting Room and Bathroom, Garage, Electric C.H. Freehold. Offers in the region of £200,000. Joint Sole Agents: Messrs. Friend & Falcke, 293 Brompton Road, London SW3 2DZ. Tel: 01-584 5361

WESTBOURNE TERRACE, W.2. An outstanding first and second floor maisonette with its own street entrance, in superb condition with elegant and gracious well planned accommodation. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms, 2 Bathrooms, Kitchen, Staff Flat, Roof Terrace, Balcony. Independent Gas-fired C.H. and C.H.W. Free Parking. Lease 132 years. £65,000.

ST. PETERSBURGH PLACE, W.2. An extremely attractive and well decorated 8th-floor flat with panoramic views across London situated in a modern block in this quiet tree-lined street close to Kensington Palace Gardens. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms, 2 Bathrooms, Fully-modernised Kitchen. C.H., C.H.W., Lift, Porter. Lease 55 Years. £35,000.

MAYFAIR W.1. With direct access onto private gardens, a ground floor maisonette in excellent condition throughout. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms, 2 Bathrooms, Shower Room, Kitchen. Independent Gas-fired C.H. Lease 26½ years. £47,500.

EATON SQUARE, S.W.1. Superb and impressive first floor balcony flat facing south over the gardens. 4 Bedrooms, 3 Reception Rooms, 4 Bathrooms, Dressing Room, Cloakroom, Kitchen, Staff Bedroom and Bathroom. 73ft. Balcony. C.H., C.H.W., Lift. Portage. Lease approximately 40 years. £200,000.

PRINCE OF WALES DRIVE, S.W.11 A well modernised family flat overlooking Battersea Park. 3 Bedrooms, 27ft. Reception Room, Dining Hall, 2 Bathrooms, Large Kitchen, Balcony. Independent Gas-fired C.H., Lift, Portage. Lease 76 years. £31,500.

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MAYFAIR, W.1.

Modernised mews house in quiet location just off Park Lane. 3 beds, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, roof terrace, gas c.h. 40 yrs lease. £125,000. Stewart Barget & Co., 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.

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